

**ERASTUS:**  
OR, THE  
**Roman Prince.**

BEING  
A more full Account of that Famous  
**HISTORY**

OF THE  
**Seven Wise MASTERS.**

WITH  
Many Pleasant Additions of Ex-  
cellent, and Divertive Discourses,  
and Songs, not unsuitable to the  
Design of the Story.

---

**L O N D O N.**

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TO THE  
R E A D E R.

**T**He History of *Erastus*, or the *Roman Prince*, hath Justly obtained a great esteem amongst men; For whereas other Works of this Nature tend to the depraving and Corrupting the tender Inclinations of Youth, we find the design of this to be the Promotion, and Incouragement of Virtue, and Ingenuity. What Fortitude and Constancy? What Patience and Humility is there not Conspicuous in the whole Series of *Erastus's* Life? We see him one day the Minion, and Darling of Fortune, courted with all the Favours of a Prodigal and Excessive Bounty: Another time, we have him tost and hurried by the Black Tempest of Adversity, on the Ruinous Rocks of Envy, Distrust and Inhumane Malice. One day the Object of the Emperours Care and Affection, the next of his Rage and Contempt. Such is the Inconstancy of Sublunary Estates, and Conditions! That for the first and second Scean of this Princes Life, he seemed to be one

A 3 of

## To the Reader.

of the Ludibria Fortune, a meer Tennis Ball of the Blind Goddess: But then if we observe the equality of his Temper, his Constancy to himself, and Virtue, under all those direful Circumstances; we may conclude him one destinated by the Gods to be a President of a Victorious Virtue and Humanity. For the Latter Scenes of his Life, they seem to Import that happy and Flourishing Condition which Heaven appoints as a reward to a Philosophical and Manly Fortitude, and looks like the Glorious, and All-enlivening beams of *Apollo* after he has chased away the Shades of the Cold Nocturnal Nymph, and made the Morning smile with the Welcom approach of his Amorous heat.

And as *Erastus* answers the Character of a Heroick and brave Man; so have you in *Dioclesian* an Emblem of as great Inconstancy, and soft Efeminacy; and yet not altogether without some good Impressions, whilst under the hamering of Reason, and sage Advice; but soon deluded with false appearances, and violently hurried by Inordinate Appetite, and unruly Passion; still taken up with the next Plausible Object, without considering any Congruity of Circumstances.

In the Seven Masters, you have the description of a true and Sincere Friendship, and

## To the Reader.

and a constant and inviolable Adhesion to the Truth, which is indeed one of the best Figures in the make of a Wise Man. Some will have these Seven Masters to be the Seven Liberal Sciences, which if a Man be thoroughly acquainted and instructed withal in his Youth, they will be constant helps to him in Adversity, and the best of his Ornaments in a Prosperous State.

Under the Notion of the Empress, you have the Description of a Venomous, and Implacable Mallice, Covered over with all the Artifices of Deceit. She enters into a League and Contract with Hell; sets up the most Diabolical Resolutions in the World, and pursues them with as much fury and subtilty as the Devil himself could do. What did she not Feign? What not Attempt against the Life of the Innocent *Erastus*? How often had she Imposed upon the too Credulous *Dioclesian* to his own Destruction. Take a survey of all the Impieties, Cruelties, Frauds, and Treacheries that ever were in that Deceitful and Deceptible part of that *Sex*, and you will see the Wife of *Dioclesian* crawling all over with that sort of Vermin; so that you may well conclude it was impossible for Woman to render her self more infamous. Then you have the natural Consequence of all her Villany; she  
was

## To the Reader.

was (after all her shams) Detected, Rejected and Despised: She became Nauseous to others, Loathsome to her self; weary of her wretched Life, and Dyed rather Obstinate than Penitent.

Thus have I in brief Opened and Vindicated the design of the Following Story; but you will find it much enlarged, and Embellished with great Variety of Additions, for the Delight, as well as Profit of the Reader. Many Songs are incerted that are not unsuitable to the Purpose, and I may without Vanity tell the Reader, that the **Roman Prince** never yet appeared in a Dress so agreeable to his Quality. I have made way for another Volumn to Compleat the Story of **Crassus**; which (if the Reader kindly accept of my Poor Endeavours in this) I shall be much Incouraged to Publish.

Farewel.

THE

THE  
Seven Wise MASTERS:

Or, The Delectable

HISTORY  
OF  
Prince Erastus.

CHAP. I.

The Emperor *Dioclesian* choſeth Seven Philoſophers to Inſtruct his Son *Erastus* in the Liberal Sciences. The Death of the Empreſs.



One thousand and forty Years after Romulus had laid the Foundation of that once famous City of Rome, there Raigned the Renowned Emperor, *Dioclesian*; the Reputation of whose Wiſdom and Greatneſs ſtretched far beyond the Confiners of his

oman East Empire. This Monarch having  
 been married to a Princess, no less Con-  
 spicuous for Beauty and Extraction, had  
 their Nuptials crowned with the Birth of  
 a Son, whose excellent Shape, and fair out-  
 look bespoke the unparallel'd perfection of its  
 Inhabitant, which at his first appearance  
 seemed to be born for the Grandure of Em-  
 pire, and looked more like an off-spring of  
 the Gods, than any thing of human Race,  
 which gave the occasion of his name Era-  
 stus (that is to say) Amiable or Lovely.  
 This was confirmed by the Patriotic-  
 Censors, and Pagelians of that Age, who by  
 their Schemes had given the Emperour an  
 account of what he was to hope from a  
 Child, born under such fortunate Configu-  
 rations. Which made the Parent solici-  
 tous to season his very Infancy with the  
 best principles for the Enobling of his High  
 Birth; wherefore he chose him Tutors, to  
 the Number of the Grecian Sages, which  
 were seven; and proportionable to the Li-  
 beral Arts: These having wither'd him  
 to a princely Mansion near the City, where  
 both privacy and delight contributed to the  
 furtherance of his studies: For the shady  
 Groves, the pleasant Walks, the warbling  
 Birds, the crystal Streams, and sumptu-  
 ous Palace, proclaimed the Delicacy of this  
 sweet

twist Retreat. So that at the Age of ten years, this Royal Youth discovered a great proficiency in Grammar, Logick, Geography, and the other Sciences, to the Astonishment of the Philosophers themselves, who were struck with Wonder, both at the Growth and Beauty of his outward Form; and especially his vast Improvement in the knowledge of Philosophy. And now, as a Trial of this young Princes Courage, comes the Death of the Fair Empress his Mother; to whom, although he bore all the Tenderness of Affection, as became a most Dutiful and Loving Child; yet having his Courage heightened by reading the Stoicks, he submitted not to Effeminate Tears, but turned his Grief into an ingenious Song, composed by him on that Occasion; which since hath not been unluckily Translated; To this purpose.

SONG.

**T**He Glories of our Birth and State  
Are shadows, not substantial Things;  
There is no Armour 'gainst our Fate:  
Death layes his Icy Hands on Kings:  
Scepter and Crown, must tumble down,  
And in the Dust be equal laid,  
With the poor crooked Scythe & Spade.

B 2

Some

## The Seven Wife

Some Men with Swords may reap the fields;  
 And plant fresh Lawrel where they kill:  
 But their strong Nerves at last must yield;  
 They tame but one another still.

Early or late, we bend to Fate,  
 And must give up our murmuring Breath,  
 Whilst the pale Captive creeps to Death.

The Garland's withered on your Brow.

Then boast no more your mighty Deeds;

For on Death's purple Altar, now

See where the Victor victim Bleeds:

All Heads must come, to the cold Tomb;

Only the Actions of the Just

Smell Sweet, and blossom in the Dust.



CHAP.



CHAP. II.

By Advice of his Parliament, the Emperor Marrieth the Princess *Aphrodicia*, who, hearing of *Erastus*, became Enamour'd of him; and shews him her Affection.

**T**he Solemnities of the Emperors's Funeral being over, the Senate doubting, if the Excellent *Erastus* were the Royal Line might be Cutting for want of Issue, prevailed with *Dioclesian* to admit to his Embraces the Princess *Aphrodicia*, of whose Beauty and Bragging, Fame had made a long Report. The good old Emperour being the more ready to entertain a good opinion for the fair Ones of that Sex, by reason of the excellent Virgines of his former Queen, the mother of his Heir apparent, soon yielded to their Request: And had his Wedding celebrated with all manner of Royal Diversions, as Quack, Dancing, and Ringing the Bells, whilst they sung to the Tune of—

Four and Twenty Fiddlers all on a Row;  
And there was Fidle, Fidle, and twice Fi-  
(dle, Feedle, &c.  
*Erastus* was none of the Gallants  
that

that attended this nuptial entertainment, either having a greater inclination for his Studies, or else loath to put off the Mourning for his Mother: But all discourses were so loaded with the Fame of his Mouth, Parts, and excellent Arguments, that it beatned up the other Ladies of the Court; insomuch, that the new-marr'd Wife could not resist the Careless of her Amorous Sovereign, for the Pain she was in; being smitten with the unknown parts, and endowments of the famous Erastus. So that letting loose the Reins of her Affections, she was driven by the violence of Passion, thus to make known her Affection to her beloved Prince, and Son-in-Law. Having taken into her Apartment, a Slave that served her for her most pleasant Discourses, and tyed him fast, by the usual Oath of Secrecy, never to divulge her Story to any Male or Female, but her adored Erastus; she sent him with a present of very rich Linen, some Plain, some Lace, and Cravats of Venetian Point, & Shifts curiously wrought in Flames, expressing his Grief. Thus do I Mourn for you, and Burn. Herewith she sent a Looking-Glass carved of precious Stone, with such Art, that it ever represented the passion of Venus for Adonis, Dido for Eneas, with many more, whereof

Romances

Romances are full; there were also costly Perfumes of great Virtue to make Affection, and a Sweet-heart of Pomander, made by Puntens, which having locked up in a right Indian Cabinet, covered with Filigreeen of Silver wire; she dispatched her Messenger, commanding him to deliver these Presents, as from the Emperor; and her self; but by no means to shew any possible demonstrations of the violence of her Affection to the Mouthful Prince; who being contemplative in the Garden of his retirement, was encountered with the Amorous present from the Queen, his mother's Mother-in-Law, which by the Page, was with great artifice presented in both the Emperor's and her name, desiring Erastus to return to the Court, and afford his presence with a Father, and Mother, that esteemed him more than her very Life: then drawing out the exquisite Curiosities that were sent, and opening them one by one, he failed not to expound the great Tenderness and Love the Emperess had for him, if possible, more than for the Emperor himself. But these Capitules obtaining nothing on his Philosophical constitution, had been rejected, had it not been for the interposition of the Seven Wise Masters, who perceiving the great richness of the Present, and

teasing the displeasure of the Emperour, of  
 Emperesse, if they should be rejected, pre-  
 vailed with their princely Pupil to admit  
 them, not without commending his Vertue  
 for thus despising the tempting vanities of  
 the Court. So the Queens Challenger be-  
 ing dismissed, he resolved to dissemble the  
 success to his mistress, and craftily acquaint-  
 ed her, That Erasmus had received her. To  
 him with infinite Joy, kissing every part,  
 and praying her that his Affection might  
 be accepted, which he would not fail, vigo-  
 rously, to express when he came to Rome.  
 This brought so in this beguiled Princess,  
 that verily believing her deceitful Slave, she  
 royally rewarded his Negotiation; pro-  
 mising, if he were instrumental in accom-  
 plishing her wishes, she would at least get  
 him to be knighted: And though he had  
 no hope of prevailing against the impreg-  
 nable Virtue of Erasmus; yet the conside-  
 ration of his own profit made him nourish  
 the Emperesse with feigned hopes of success;  
 while the burning in the heat of an intem-  
 perate desire, retired into her Closet, and  
 casting her self on her Couch, in a Dream,  
 fancied she had her dear Iden in her Arms;  
 so that speaking aloud with the extacy. Ah!  
 My better Life, you are welcome. At which  
 noise, her Ladies coming into the Room,

and awaking her, he told them, he had  
dreamt of a Serpent that affrighted her;  
whereupon they urging, that no resort was  
due to Dreams, persuaded her privately  
to divert her self at the Play-house, untill  
Supper time.



CHAP. III.

Supper being ended, and the Emperor,  
and his Queen retired to their Lodging;  
whilst the lost Diadem of sound Sleep crown-  
ed his Temples, the wretched Queen could  
not rest, tearing an enterprise so well be-  
gun

gun should miscarry though her neglect  
therefore rising early in the morning, and  
pretending to go to her Beds, she privately  
writ this Letter to her dear I  
bel.

Aphrodisia to Erastus.

**I** Et not your fair Eyes be displeased with  
the Rudeness of these Unpolished, which  
proceeding from the deepest Affection, come  
to shew the unsufferable Pain I endure, un-  
til I enjoy the most Amiable Erastus. It is  
impossible a person of your Youth and  
Beauty can be insensible of Cupids Flame,  
which so preys upon my Vitals, that with-  
out it be quenched by a reciprocal Ardour  
on your Part, my gasping Spirits must soon  
expire. In confirmation of my real Affec-  
tion, I have herewith sent the best of my  
Jewels, too mean a present for the Master  
of my Heart. The grandure of the Em-  
pire is too mean an Object for her, whose  
Soul cherisheth your Idea. Come then, and  
let your Embraces make me happy, or I shall  
soon dye the most unfortunate of Women.

This Letter being sealed, she placed, with  
many Jewels of richest value, in a Cab-  
inet, wherein, in most curious Manner, she  
had taught her People to express the Story  
of Penelope and Ulysses; and delibering it

to

her private challenger, she gave him  
in charge, with all cunning insinuations, to  
shew to the Prince the fervent Ardour  
of her Passion; which he saw the better  
opportunity to do, finding the Prince alone  
in his Closet: But before he broke into  
mention of the most important matter, he  
wished to see with what Countenance the  
noble Erasmus would receive the Amorous  
present; but as soon as the Letter had  
discovered the true meaning of the Design;  
how did a virtuous disdain shew it self in  
his Countenance; and having torn the letter  
in pieces, with sharp reproaches he dismissed  
his Slave, commanding him to advise his  
confidants to shew her unchast and wicked In-  
clinations, and to carry back the Tokens  
of her foul desire. The Slave, being retur-  
ned, had no easy part to act, being for his  
own advantage to dissemble the just Re-  
sentments of Erasmus; therefore, bravely,  
and he acquaints the Queen (who wondered at  
the return of her Jewels without any Let-  
ter) That the Prince had returned them,  
as not esteeming himself worthy of so great  
favours, that were fitter for a Ladies Cab-  
inet; that her Affection, was that which,  
he esteems all things he valued; and kissing the  
Letter a thousand times, had returned an  
answer in writing, but feared a discovery  
to

by

by the sabbath approach of some one of these  
 Entozs, only pray'd her, that he might be  
 in her favour until he came to Rome, to which  
 should he speedily; and that then she should  
 receive the Satisfaction she so much desired.  
 This Story infinitely satisfied Aphrodisias  
 who liberally rewarding her (as she thought)  
 truely Slave, with most ardent Expectations  
 she waited the coming of Erastus.

#### CHAP. IV.

**I**N the mean time the impatient Emperor  
 press'd all Occasions, by setting hence  
 for the Emperor, the great Renown that  
 would rebound to him by the presence of  
 his Son, who was a person of so rare  
 accomplishments, as was not again to be  
 matched in the World; and that it would  
 mightily engage the Affections of his Sub-  
 jects to see before their Eyes a Prince with  
 such excellent perfections, so qualified for  
 the Imperial Diadem. With such Inflam-  
 mations the Court prevailed on the easy Dis-  
 clesian, who had likewise no less inclin-  
 ation to see an only Son of such admirable  
 Improvement: who suddenly dispatch'd  
 one of his principal Lords to the Palace  
 the young Prince; where having to the



Seven Wise Masters given an account of the  
 Emperors pleasure, That his Son should  
 come to Rome on the next day, and the  
 Tutors accompany him, if they thought  
 might be without prejudice to the Stu-  
 dies of their Royal Pupil. The Learned  
 Masters having, with much attention, con-  
 sidered the Emperors message, and knowing,  
 their charge, Erastus to be accomplished to the  
 highest degree that Philosophy could im-  
 prove him to. After they had conducted the  
 Ambassadors to the presence of the hopeful  
 Son of the Empire, where they propounded  
 several abstruse Questions in the deepest Sci-  
 ences, that the Roman Lord might be able  
 to give the Emperour an account of his Sons  
 proficiency; which all being answered by  
 Erastus with incomparable Skill, and promp-  
 tness of Wit far beyond his years: The  
 Ambassadors returned the most satisfied Man  
 alive, acquainting him, That the next day  
 the young Prince would not fail to sig-  
 nify his Obedience to his Royal pleasure;  
 and would come attended with his learned  
 Masters, who all presented their most hum-  
 ble Duty to their Lord the Emperour; which  
 answer being received by Dionysius, toge-  
 ther with an account of his Sons wonderful  
 proficiency in Learning, it rendered him the  
 most joyful Man in the World. So that,

forthwith he ordered his Senate and Nobles to be ready the next day to meet their young Prince, and with greatest pomp conduct him to the Court. The whole City was employed in sitting Pageants, Arches and Equipages for his reception: But above all, Aphrodisia could hardly suppress the rapt of Joy she was in, at the apprehension of the so near approach of that welcome day, wherein she should enjoy (as she thought) the Object of her most fervent Wishes, and elevated Desires: The rest of the Ladies omitted no civility that might express their acknowledgement of the most accomplished and desirable of Mankind.



## CHAP. V.

**B**UT on the Evening before this great Solemnity, the young Prince walking in his Garden, observed by a cross aspect of 5 Stars, that some most eminent danger threatened him in this his splendid expedition; but that which most troubled him, was the apprehension of an ignominious Death, which by his great skill in Astrology he saw must happen; not so much dreading Death, which his Philosophy taught him was the result of Nature, as the shameful manner of it: Therefore communicating this discovery to his Seven Tutors, they heard him with great astonishment, and finding by the Schemes (which on that Occasion) they erected, that it was but too true, as the Prince had discovered; they were cast into the greatest Sorrow and Distraction imaginable; not finding any possibility to prevent this speedy Ruin and Destruction, in which they must all be involved. But Crassus, who was ever in an extraordinary manner befriended by the Gods; had it revealed to him, that if he could but keep Silence for seven days, the fatal Aspect would be over, and he should, with great honour, escape the threatened Mischiefe. They being convinced of the likelihood of this project, and confirmed in the belief

believe of it by an Eclipse that had hapened not long before: resolved, being Seven in number, each Man would take his day to mediate and Intercede for this Innocent Prince, during the time of his Silence thereby to divert that misunderstanding and mischief, which the Malice of Erastus's Enemies might suggest on that occasion which being on all hands resolved on, they with most Princely Equipage, address themselves to their Journey the next Morning.

## CHAP. VI.

**T**he morning of this splendid day being come, a select company of the Elders Sons of the Roman Nobility waited the young Prince's Motion out of the Gate of his Palace, where they attended him, dressed in the richest Habits, most needful Furnitures, and costly Liberties, that the Gallantry of the Roman Empire (then in its Glory) could furnish them withal: in the Equipage waiting upon him to the City gate, they were there met by the Emperor in a Chariot of State, and all the Nobles of the Court: some on Horse-back, others in Coaches curiously Guilded, and set off

with

with the best Italian Painting, whilst all the Bells in the City were rung in musical Changes, and the Conbatts running with Wine, and the Mayor, and his Liveries lining the Streets with their Ensignes and Liveries; besides the Pageants, and Rope-dancers, with other pompes of Diversion, far exceeded the gayety of a Bartholomew-Fair. But all this Triumph was soon turned into the greatest Dejection, and Sorrow imaginable: when the Emperour speaking to the Son of his best hopes, & giving him the welcom of a most indulgent Father, received no other answer but a dumb Obedience, and silent Reverence; at which, the Emperour being in great heaviness, feared lest his too much study might have deprived him of his Reason; so that in a too strict pursuit of Philosophy, he had lost his spirits: this opinion was much brightened, when the young Prince, being conducted into the Chamber of Silence, and late on a Throne by his Father, could by no arguments be prevailed with to unlock the Cabinet of his Coral-Lips, but had there Immured the most Learned of Tongues to a rigorous Silence: So that calling for the Philosophers, the enraged Emperour with great transport and vehemence, told them, That if they did not a-

C

gain

gain restore his Son to his Speech, both they and their foolish Pupil would speedily expect to be condemned to the House of Silence, and have the Organs of their Voices stopped by Act of Justice: But they with the greatest Submissions that could be encountered to allay the mighty Tempers of the Kings Wrath, awaiting his Majesty: What this wonderful Silence of his Son, as it did proceed from some secret cause, to them unknown, so they doubted not but time would manifest, that it was by some secret power, or command at least, that the will of Princes had imposed this Silence on himself: For that the King that has bought the Emperors Page, but the day before, was witness to what excellent demonstration of Reason and Learning he had discoursed in his presence but the day before.

But the Queen, who sitting under a Cloath of State in the same Room, had been all this while conversing with her Eyes the dear Object of her highest desires; and finding that Name, which report had kindled was now so much heightened by the presence of the most attractive, and desirable person in the World, that without it were a little allayen by a speedy fruition, it would certainly reduce her to be the most miserable

ble of Women; took this occasion to acquaint the indulgent Emperor, that he had in her Closet a Secret, recommended by a Physician of great note, that would in short time recover the speech of such as were dumb: Wherefore if His Majesty would so order it, that the Prince might retire with her, to her Apartment, he doubted not but in some short time, if he had him alone with her, both to discover, and cure the cause of his Distemper.

The good Emperor, not suspecting this serpentine cunning of a fair Woman, gave command, That Erastus should attend upon the Queen in her Closet; where this work of Women put in practice, the devilish design you will hear of in the next Chapter.

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## CHAP. VII.

**T**He Lustful Aphrodisia having by this occasion, as she thought, taken sure hold of her Prey: the doors being shut, she, with most amorous words and gestures, began to explain the meaning of her former Letters and presents, recounting the violence of her passion, in the most enticing

ing manner that a wicked and depraved Woman can devise. And is my Beauty (said she) and my Mouth, that is here presented to your pleasure, become an object of scorn and contempt: Am I the occasion of this stupid Silence of yours? Speak my dearest Erastus; and ere it be too late, revive the languishing Spirits of her that cannot live without she enjoys you. Then with a storm of lascivious Kisses, he attempted a battery on the impregnable Fort of his Chastity; exposing her most enticing beauties, with the greatest allurements; and heightening the demonstrations of her passion, by words, expressing the most ardent and sincere Affection: What (said she) my Erastus, must then my royal Favour and all conquering Beauty be the contempt of your pretended stupidity, and icy Silence? or can you think, though you abuse these Tears, the showers of my Love, that you shall be able to avoid the tempest of my just Anger? No, no, Erastus, think not thy dull Morality shall balk my expectations of their desired end; but that thou mayst see how far the malice of a disappointed Woman can reach, be assured I will make so effectual an example of Female rage, as shall astonish the Generations to come, when they shall here there



of. When trying whither force might not  
 prevail upon him, she endeavoured to con-  
 strain him to her Couch; which the poor  
 transported Prince perceiving, with great  
 intemperance, seized the door, lest the infec-  
 tious Room; but was soon pursued through  
 the Gallery by the enraged Empress, whose  
 Lust being now turned to belish and bar-  
 barous Revenge, she was heard over the  
 Court, with most feigned, and Crocodile  
 Lamentations, to exclaim, Stop, Stop, the  
 young Traitor to his Fathers honour, the  
 Violator of my Chastity, with many o-  
 ther Blasphemies, as her devilish and ex-  
 quisite Malice could invent; still tearing  
 her Hair, rending her Face and Breasts,  
 and Wattering her neglected Jewels, and  
 regal Robes, that would have been the  
 modest covering of her Honour: So that  
 meeting the King in this posture, who had  
 by this time detained the innocent Prince,  
 whom he met flying the bestial Rage of  
 this Fury: casting her self at his Royal  
 Feet, she, with great artifice so acted the  
 Hypocrite, that the Emperour was gull'd in-  
 to a belief of that Shameless Fact, which  
 this most Savage of her Sex had alleadged,  
 with feigned tears, and bitter execrations.  
 So that taking the Princes silence (which  
 the Stars had joyned him) for a contempt

of his Authority, and an infallible argument of Guilt; he ordered the Guards to take this model of abused Innocence into close Custody, until it should be determined what Sentence was the just reward of so foul a Crime.

Which was soon resolved on, for the Council being presently called, and having only heard the Plaintiff (who now undoubtedly concluded he had a plenary revenge on the Confessor of her brutal desires) they sentenced him to be dyed's, hanged, and quarter'd; and that within the space of three hours: But all were astonished that beheld his unmoved Constancy under this most unjust procedure; and greatly lamented, that a young Prince, of such growing hopes, should be thus cut off in the bud, and mourning of his princely youth: So that nothing but dismal Lamentations were to be heard, and sable Conternation appeared to cover the Face of the whole City. This gave so great an Alarm to the Seven Philosophers, who had engaged to be his Advocates for the seven days, until the malignity of his Stars were expired; that they hardly knew what to determine, because of the shortness of the time: But without considering, if they moved not in this instant, the Fortune of the Empire would be lost, and

and Prosperity described of the happiness of  
so excellent a Governour. The Lot for  
the first day fell on Euprosigorus; who ac-  
cordingly subjected himself to oppose the  
Torrent of the Imperial Rage, in execra-  
ting that fatal Sentence on the head of  
Princes, Erastus.



CHAP. VIII.

**N**D sooner had Euprosigorus entered  
the presence of Dioclesian; but it may  
well be imagined what a storm of fury fell  
on him for his presumption, in that he im-  
prudently

Pudently had intruded himself upon the Em-  
 perors presence, when his fury, and tran-  
 sport on the forementioned occasion were  
 such, as none durst attempt to come into  
 his sight: Especially such as he thought the  
 Tutors to the unfortunate Erastus must be,  
 having instead of the excellent dictates of  
 Philosophy (as he thought) instructed him  
 in nothing more than to seek the shame and  
 ruine of himself, and cast perpetual infamy  
 on his Parents. I say tis not hard to  
 guess how welcome Euproligorus must needs  
 be to a presence that had entertained such  
 thoughts as these confirming him. But  
 the good Philosopher arming himself with  
 the pale of innocence, and the considera-  
 tion of the Care the Gods had over such,  
 without the least shew of trouble or con-  
 cern, thus replied to the Emperor; having  
 given place to the first shocks of his fury.  
 And is it then (most excellent Dioclesian)  
 so small a thing (said he) with one sudden,  
 and unbeliberate stroke to cut of the Glo-  
 ry of your stock, I had almost said of man-  
 kind, through the importunities; nay, per-  
 haps false suggestions of a weak and silly  
 woman, whose Passions sometimes admit  
 not of the Councils of reason or delibera-  
 tion. Hear me then mighty Emperor (con-  
 tinued he) and suspend this rigid Sentence  
 until

until I have (by commemorating an accident that once befell in this City) shew'd your Highness the irrecoverable loss that attends a hasty and rash Determination: which request being complied withall; he assumes his discourse to this purpose. There was not many years since, a noble Span of this your Imperial City, who had one only Child, which he delivered to the care of a Nurse, to be brought up in his own House; he had besides a Dog, in which he took great satisfaction; for many qualities incident to that active and faithful Creature, in the which he had observed this Dog to excel. Now it happened on a certain day, when this Lord, with his Lady and Attendants, went to see a Tournament perform'd in the Olympick fields, according to the custome of the antient Romans; and having left only the Nurse with the care of their darling Child, her curiosity carried her to the top of the house, to observe what she could of the Sport at so great a distance, leaving only the fond Dog in the Room, where the Child slept in its Cradle; but whilst this careless Woman was there diverting her sole and wanton Fancy, a Serpent came into the Chamber where the Infant lay, which soon espy'd by the trusty Spaniel,

ntel,

riel, was as soon set upon, in defence of  
 the dear little Pledge, whose charge he  
 maintained; the Contest was fierce and  
 long, so that in the fray, the Cradle was  
 overthrown, but to such advantage, that  
 it secured the Child from what it might  
 otherwise have been exposed to: At length  
 the Dog won the Victory; but not with-  
 out the loss of much Blood; which be-  
 ing perceived by the careless Nurse, as  
 soon as her impertinence gave her leave  
 to descend into the Chamber, without fur-  
 ther enquiry, she flew, with the Alarm,  
 to the Place where her Lady was, ac-  
 cusing the faithful Spaniel that had been  
 the protector of his little Master, to have  
 been his Destroyer. All enter the Room  
 with all that haste which Passion and Fu-  
 ry could convey them withall, and finding  
 the Cradle overthrown, the honest Gar-  
 dian bloody; without more ado, rewarded  
 his Fidelity by knocking out his Brains,  
 thereby robbing the poor Dog of his life,  
 that had been the Instrument to preserve  
 the Child. But when a little respite  
 and breathing had given them leave to  
 search for the deplored Infant; it was  
 found alive, and entire, under the Cradle;  
 and on a stricter view, the remains of a  
 venomous Serpent, from whom the trusty  
 Dog

Dog had received his wounds in his quarters defence: when these and other circumstances began more clearly to be reflected upon; then indeed did the errors of rash & precipitate passion shew themselves in their true colours: Insomuch, that the too credulous Gentleman now saw, how, for want of consideration, he had rewarded the valiant and faithful Defender of his Child and House, with a base, cruel, and treacherous Death; and believing it impossible, that ever such another faithful Servant could fall to the share of one that knew no better to distinguish his services: these, and such like reflections had like to have put him on the sending Wife, Nurse, and Servants into the other World, to expiate the irreparable loss of his trusty Spanniel. This, mighty Sir, may be your case, and much worse, if by the advice of your wisest Counsellors, you do not take such measures in this great and important Affair, as the just merit of the Cause requires. Wherefore let me crave your Royal deference of this so rash and severe Sentence; which the Emperour (being much taken with the Morality of the Story) granted accordingly.



## CHAP. IX.

**I**n the Evening going to the Apartment of the Empress, as he was wont to do; having the greatest tenderness of Affection for her, by reason of the great attraction youth naturally over Age: he found her all in tears, and with bitter sobbrenting (it may be) one of the dolefullest Lamentations that e're was heard of: But that which most astonished the good Dioclesian, was to observe, that the more he endeavoured to



to administer to the mitigation of her Sor-  
 rows; the more they were exasperated, and  
 broke out with no small reflections on his  
 being wholly a stranger to all principles of  
 Justice, and common Honesty; for (said  
 she) as the place you hold in the Roman  
 Empire obligeth you to the strictest obser-  
 vance of the Laws of Justice and Equity;  
 So the personal Relation you stand in to  
 me, more particularly requires at your  
 hand a due vindication of my Honour, but  
 both of these you have much departed from,  
 in delaying the reparation of the violence  
 offered to your Woe, as well as mine, by  
 him whom you call your Son; but what  
 proportion his actions bear to that Relati-  
 on, let the world judge. In this case I  
 can compare you no better to any thing,  
 than the old Pine Tree: What Pine Tree,  
 said the Emperor? She replied, because  
 the case is so parallel, I will give you the  
 trouble to hear it; and composing her Face  
 to a formal Seriousness, she began thus.  
 A Gentleman that took great delight in an  
 Ambuage he had near his Garden, and  
 especially to an old Pine Tree that gave  
 great Ornament to it: One day as he was  
 contemplating in the shade of that place,  
 he observed a young Sprout arise from the  
 root of the ancient Pine, and taking his  
 Gardiner,

Cardiner, consulted how to preserve and cher-  
 ish the young Tree. The Cardiner told  
 him, that the bigger Pine bore too much  
 head, which shaded and hindered; where-  
 on he had order to pare that part of the old  
 Pine that was injurious to the Sprout.  
 The Gentleman about that time took a jour-  
 ney, and at his return, found one half of the  
 old Tree withered; and asking again his  
 Cardiner, had this answer, That it was bet-  
 ter wholly to take away the ancient Pine,  
 that the young might the sooner fill his  
 place. This my Lord, this is what I fear,  
 and I wish my Omens prove not too true;  
 as for instance, Your Majesty is the Prince-  
 ly Pine, under whose shadow the Roman  
 Shepherds have with non-interrupted de-  
 light reposed themselves: your supposed Son  
 is the fatal Shrub, for whose cherishment, your  
 Royal Self, the Imperial Pine, must be cut  
 down & destroyed; they having killed your bet-  
 ter part, your Honor already: The Cardiners  
 are these base Sycophants, & Philosophers, who  
 (so they may divide the Government of Rome  
 between them) are all bent to the cherishing  
 this graceless Shrub. And here a well-dis-  
 sembled Tide of Tears stoppt the farther  
 current of her speech; so that looking most  
 disconsolately on the Emperor, as expecting  
 his answer to her diabolical Fable: She  
 might see him make several demonstrations  
 of his too absolute belief of her Ham, by  
 thumping his breast, beating the ground,  
 cursing the very gods, & endeavouring to dash  
 his

his fury at them, in the fierce cast of his eyes and countenance: At length, Too well my dear Crispus (said he) do I discern this execrable Conspiracy; but I hope it shall not be too late: then leaving the room, he immediately gave the second order for executing the dire Sentence on the Peerless Crastus.



## CHAP. X.

**T**HE Philosopher Dinnyrus have undertaken to take off the second days shock from the innocent Crastus; in order to the seasonable effecting it, very early in the morning,

morning was waiting at the door of the Kings Chamber, and being introduced by one of the Pages, had the liberty of being heard, with greater patience than one could have thought was possible, considering the dreadful ferment the last discourse, with Aphrodisia, had put the Emperoz in: but whether it was that the Humors of the Slight had somewhat moderated the acuteness of the Fumes; or only advising his Pillow, abstracted somewhat from the rigour of his resolution. Certes (as we were saying) Dimurgus found him in a temper much more serene, than could have been expected: the circumstances, but now related, being considered, which gave the Philosopher more freedom to debate the injustice of the Sentence, than otherwise could have been permitted; insomuch, that he obtained a second days Truce, with the Emperors indignation: which he did, by relating the sad, and most unfortunate adventure of the learned Hipocrates, in this sort.

+ The young Prince of Hungary being very sick, the King and Queen sent Ambassadors to the famous Doctor, with large presents, and assurance of larger, if he would come and secure the life of their only Son: It so happened at that time, the

old Physician had himself need of a Doctor, and the Messengers seeing him not in capacity to Travel, accepted of a young Scholar, a Nephew of Hipocrates, Whom he had, with all diligence, instructed in the greatest Secrets of his Art: this person being arrived at the Court, was very well received by both the King and Queen, who discovered in him, more than ordinary, symptoms of an exquisite Artist.

One day taking the Queen aside, privately he acquainted her, That the young Prince, now so sick, was not the natural Son of the King; and therefore, unless she would relate who was his real Father, he could do no more towards his Cure; but on consideration he would disclose that, he would secure the young Princes life. The Queen much astonished at his great Art; after having taken of him an Oath of Secrecy on the Mass-book, and modestly acquainted him with the Circumstances inducing her thereto; which, without Pa-  
glick, you may suppose to be the King's coldness, and a natural Inclination that Queens have to furnish the world with Princes, that have the Spirit of Government: She acquainted him with the only Secret of her Cabinet, that he was the Son of an Irish man, that had served the

King in his Wars against the Turk, who taking the opportunity of the King's being gone a Hunting; one day took such acquaintance with me in my Closet, that after some time, it was the product of this Son; who indeed passeth for the Prince: and I promised the Captain, for his kindness to me, to make his child (if a boy) Heir to the Crown of Hungary. By this the King hath the satisfaction to think himself a Father; I the happiness of being a Mother: and you the only person entrusted with the Secret, of the which, you may make such use as best pleaseth you, only preserving the Sons life, and the Mothers Honour; which I am the easier induced to confide in, by reason of your Oath to Hipocrates. The young Doctor having given great attention to this Relation; promised to answer both her requests, both in relation to the Secret, and to apply himself to use his utmost skill for the recovery of the young Prince; which he did with such success, that in a little time he being perfectly restored, to the exceeding satisfaction both of the King and Queen: the Physician was Royally rewarded, and dismissed with great Honour; who returning to his Uncle, the great Hipocrates, and having given him a particular account of his good Success,

with

with the extraordinary bounty of his Royal Benefactors. The subtle old Doctor seem'd wonderfully pleas'd with what his nephew had related; and forc'd himself into an appearance of highly congratulating the young Man's fortune; whilst inwardly he had very different sentiments; for it wrought in him a strong regret, which at length swell up to a perfect malignancy, and repining at the prosperity of this young Physician; and as it is natural for old men to be largely stock'd with jealousy, and envy: These two passions wrought so powerfully on the declining Hippocrates, that he put on a felonious resolution of eclipsing the growing Splendour of his Nephew, lest in time it might exceed the dimension of his own long acquired Fame. He therefore takes his Nephew into the fields, one day, to observe the medicinal Herbs of the earth, and having asked him others questions of the nature and quality of such and such plants; at length, said the old Man, reach me that Herb that groweth so low on the ground; which the young Doctor, stooping to do, the other mortally wounded him on the hinder part of his head, with a hatchet he (for that purpose) had placed under his Gown. Thus this envious old man having put a period to his life; and as (he then thought)

thought) to his own fears and jealousies, he cast the Body in a pit thereby, inwardly rejoicing at the bloody Tragedy. But a very short time convinced him of the barbarous effect of his rash and indeliberate Action, when being seized with a violent distemper; the pains, and decays of his Body put him in mind of his cruel Bloodshed; he then, wanting now the help of his only Heir, whom so basely he had butchered. So that continually exclaiming on the irrecoverable loss his rashness had brought on all Men, and particularly on himself, and filled with the Terrors of black horror, and endless despair, he most wretchedly expired in one of his Agonies. Thus (mighty Prince) said the learned Dimurgus, have I laid before your Imperial Majesty, the most sad, and irreparable effects of rash, and inconsiderate Actions; which once finished, and determined, can never be repaired; but end in endless, yet vain Repentance. The Emperor having weighed the purport of this discourse, ordered a second Reprieve to the dismal Sentence.

CHAP.



## CHAP. XI.

**T**he ungracious Empress seeing the Council of Dimurgus, had prevailed to resist the fatal Sentence against the most virtuous Erastus; and fearing the delay of his Execution, might one day discover her inhuman Treachery, and pull a just vengeance on her own head: that she might yet again incense the blinded Emperour to comply with her barbarous Treasons; feigned her self almost dead with sorrow, because her Honour had not received that satisfaction which the Law had granted to the justice of her Complaint. Wherefore retreating into the most private part of her Apartment, she permitted none to administer Comfort to her Sorrows, but the Slave that had been the Secretary to her devilish practices. This sad retirement coming to the Emperours ears; he out of an excess of Affection, would go to comfort his implacable Crocodile, and being, with great entreaties, admitted to the place, which was the doleful Scene of her feigned Sorrow; he found her weltering in tears, in the midst of her Rosaries and Beads, afflicting her self in the most passionate manner imaginable;

ble; so that the poor deluded Dioclesian could not sojourn wedding his Royal Juice at the dismal prospect. *Alas* having almost tired her self with the excess of her passion, and (as she thought) mollified him to take the impression of her curlew Council: She thus addresses her self to her design. *Think you, most Royal Dioclesian, that these tears, and this profound sorrow in which you see me cast, could possibly proceed on the account of the most unfortunate Aphrodicea? or that my own affairs (which bear no proportion in my soul with yours) could touch me to so sharp regret? No, mighty Prince, it is the eminent danger that I see your Sacred Person exposed to, whilst you permit these insidious, and traiterous Philosophers to work you into a belief of Erastus's innocence: That Erastus (said she) whom I cannot mention without an Agony: and here stopping her speech, which gave way to a volley of sighs, and well-assembled Groans; and fixing her Basilisk eyes on the almost distracted Emperor, she proceeded after this sort: The Gods, and all the Supreme Powers ever defend the Sacred Roman Emperor, and never suffering ominous portents to take effect on his Royal Person. *Oh!* my Sovereign Dioclesian (said she) How like are you to the Royal*

al Boze, of which the Moralist gives account: who having long swayed the Scepter of the Forest, and with great contempt overthrown the pride, and power of all that opposed his Empire; yet at last was by a wily Stratagem, and seeming friendship destroyed, by a silly Sheapherd, after this manner: This treacherous Swain had observed a stately Pear-tree, the Fruit whereof, best pleased the princely Boze, and to the which, for that reason he made frequent resort: The Sheardman takes an opportunity to convey himself upon this Tree; where having been but little time, the generous Boze came to his repast, and giving the Tree a Hog, to shake down his delicates, the cunning Swain had gathered many in his coat, which at that instant he flung down to the Royal Beast, and ever now and then sent fresh supplies of the delicious fruit, until at length (having made too large a meal) the unwary Boze lay down to rest under the fatal Tree: the traiterous youth taking hold of this opportunity, softly descended, and gently clawing the lumbering Prince, soon had an opportunity to thrust his knife to his heart: To whom the expiring Boze thus spake; Versitious Wretch, who in contempt of my Royal Authority, hast thus traiterously destroyed my person; know, that

if I had known what poisonous fruit had been on this ingrateful Tree, I would have set fire to the roots of it: and have by the ruins of such a deceitful Castle, have prevented my own. What need any Explanation to be made of a parallel so visible: But if your Imperial Highness take not warning by this Story, you may too soon feel the Sword of him that now claws and flatters you, Weathed in your Bowels. This Advice, set off with the greatest Artifice that a subtle malice could devise, wrought with the easy King, that he once more promised the false Aphrodisia, that the next rising Sun should be witness to the Tragedy of Erastus.



CHAP.

## CHAP. XII.

**T**he third dayes care of the excellent Prince Erastus, by Lot, falling on the wise Philosopher Therminus; and he understanding the strict order the Emperour had given for the punctual Execution of the dreadful Sentence, that day, very early in the morning waited at the Royal Apartment: And though he considered he was to encounter the anger of an Emperour, exasperated by the wiles, and subtilties of an implacable wicked Queen; yet did the sense he had of the Justice of the Princes cause, the Innocence of his person; together with the indispenfible duty of a Philosopher, to withstand (what in him lay) the Execution of a Sentence so barbarous, and against the very light of Nature: these, and such like considerations, armed the Philosopher against the mighty opposition he met withal; so that notwithstanding he was (with much difficulty) admitted to the presence, and with many a Regal frown, and sharp reflection entertained by Dioclesian: he with great humanity, and undisturbedness, gave way to the passionate Tempest; and with a Stoical bravery overcame, or at least despi-

despised the effects of an Emperors blindness, and a Queens rage. So that taking a convenient opportunity, he with a sage and graceful presence, and discourse, so charmed the evil spirit, that the Magick of Aphrodicea had raised in the Emperor that the half-imbued Dioclesian gave way to the Morals of the learned Thermus which, in such sort, he expressed: That wise man (by over-indulging, either his own Passions, or the Councils of a secret Enemy) may be induced to an Act of the highest rashness, and injustice: and that irreparable mischief, may be the product of such un deliberate determinations, hath been proved by the excellent Discourses of the Sages, Euprosigorus, and Dimurgus. Now (by the permission of your Imperial Majesty) I humbly crave leave to Infer, that all this mischief may probably derive from the malice, and subtlety of a mischievous Woman: And though we ought alwayes to be cautious, and suspicious of our own Determinations, especially in matters of Importance (and what can be of greater, than the Fate of the Roman Empire, which depends on the execution, or remission of this dayes Sentence) yet ought we never to be more circumspect in such Affairs, than when a Woman

man shall be the Instigator of the Action :  
 having been alwayes observeable, that  
 the most notorious, and desperate Villai-  
 nes have been managed, either by the coun-  
 sell, or assistance of that Sex. So having  
 obtained a Reprieval of the Sentence till  
 the next day, he went on with his Story,  
 as the Author hath it. A Wealthy (but  
 content) Noble-man of Tuscany, was Mar-  
 ried to a young and beautiful Lady, of one  
 of the most Honourable houses of that Coun-  
 try, to the great satisfaction of all their  
 Relations; this Marriage was celebrated  
 with all suitable demonstrations of Spirit  
 and Gallantry: So that Feasting, Dance-  
 ing, Masquing, and Entertainment, took  
 up almost as much time, as might well  
 have lookt towards a Copping; when all  
 this while the old Knight dressing himself  
 in a Habit, and Humour more agreeable  
 to a Lad of Eighteen, and being in his  
 own Imagination, at least Thirty years  
 younger than his true date: by the brisk-  
 ness of his behaviour, seemed (tolerably)  
 to answer the gayty of his young Lady.  
 But these Dancing dayes being over, and  
 the old Knight appearing in bed to be quite  
 another thing than what his dress, and for-  
 ges humor bespake him, occasioned the young  
 Bride to pass the Night in considerations  
 very

very different from what they might have been, had she been Married to one, more suitable to her years: For the old man had only tickled her into a longing, for the which was not in his power to give; that being almost distracted, with a vehement desire of enjoying a more agreeable bed-fellow; and having wearied her thoughts with casting, how to accomplish it: she one day took an occasion to disclose her (as she call'd it) unsupportable Passion to her Mother; and being with her in her Closet, she thus bespake her: Madam, you have not before your eyes, one of the most unfortunate of woman kind; Married to what I must ever Loath, because he can never afford me the only solace of a woman's life: think with your self dear Madam, was ever one of my Form and Age, condemn'd to be tyed up to a Flaren-Perriwig, a Point-band, a trim'd pair of Pantaloones, Fringe-Gloves, and a Beaver-Hat; so; at night, when the Page hath laid these in the dressing Room, there remains nothing youthfull, nothing handsome, or worthy my Embraces; when by my side lies the sad Skeleton of a decayed human, which instead of giving me the relish of my life, grates my thoughts all the long night, with apprehensions of unwelcome Death.



Orath. Oh! cruel Matrimony, that sette-  
st youth under such Tyrannous restraints.  
therefore humbly imploze your Mother-  
affection, as ever you have been scorched  
with the Flame of Love; that you will  
do some endeavour to ease this my un-  
bearable pain, and afford some refresh-  
ment to my languishing spirits. The good  
Lady being strangely surprized at this  
discourse of her Daughters, and breathing  
the consequence of such untuly Passion,  
assembled her true Resentments, and seem-  
ed to condole with the young woman in her  
misfortunes; by this means, designing to  
send out a prevention for the threatening  
calamities: She therefore desired to know  
whether she had fixed on any Object, par-  
ticular for the satisfying her desires, and  
promised her best assistance therein. The  
Daughter not perceiving her Mothers dis-  
simulation, took all she said for true, and  
casting her self on her knees; Dear Ma-  
dam (said she) you are by this most af-  
fectionate Grant become twice my Mother;  
for by your assistance herein, you will save  
that Life, which before you gave me. When  
she proceeded to acquaint her, that her Con-  
fessor was (as she thought) one of the  
most Amiable, and Charming persons in  
the world: for Madam (continued she) his  
Eyes

Eyes are so piercing, his Discourse so soft  
and courtly, his whole Deen so attractive  
that if you can but so bring it to pass,  
may have the enjoyment of his person;  
would not change Fortune with the greatest  
Empress. I will repeat you a Song, which  
the other day, after Confession, he sung  
my Guittar, which he found in my Closet  
and I am apt to think he utter'd it in con-  
sideration of my Circumstances: the Song  
was this:

## SONG.

## I.

**N**OW fye upon him: What is Man,  
Whose Life at best is but a Span?  
When to an Inch it dwindles down;  
Ice in his Bones, Snow on his Crown;  
That he within his crazy Brain,  
Kind thoughts of Love should entertain:  
That he, when Harvest comes should Plow  
And when 'tis time to Reap, go Sow;  
Who (in Imagination only strong) (young  
Though twice a Child, can never twice

## II.

Nature did those ordain for Fools,  
That sue for Work, yet have no Tools:  
What fellow-feeling can there be,  
In such a strange disparitie?

Old Age mistakes the youthful Breast;  
 For Love dwells there, not Interest:  
 Alas good Man! take thy repose,  
 Get Ribband for thy Thumbs and Toes,  
 Provide thee Flannel, and a sheet of Lead;  
 Think on thy Coffin, not thy Bridal Bed.

The Song ended, Madam (said he) I hope  
 you will pardon this Levity; and with a look  
 that testified his compassion for my unhappi-  
 ness, he left the Room. Think Dearest Ma-  
 dam, what impression such a discovery, of so  
 desirable an Affection, must needs make; and  
 how welcome such a Feast must be to one  
 acquainted with nothing but broken Meals  
 and Abstinence: If therefore I have any in-  
 terest in your Motherly Compassion! Let  
 me beg your best help in assisting me to the  
 enjoyment of the Chaplains embraces; with-  
 out which, I must be the most miserable of  
 Moman kind. The good old Lady was in-  
 wardly much grieved at this discovery of her  
 Daughters disloyalty, and unchast inclination;  
 yet seemingly assented, telling her,  
 That she would, with all imaginable secre-  
 cy and diligence, further her designs: but  
 that for the greater security, it were conve-  
 nient to make tryal of the old Man's humor,  
 by crossing and affronting him in some other  
 circumstance, before they attempted an Abuse  
 so gross and infamous: So that, if she could  
 but handsomly acquit her self, if she attempt-  
 ed two or three injuries upon him, in some  
 other

other respect, first of all, it might be a means the better to work his disposition to a compliance with hers in the main design, at least it might bring him to yield her a liberty that might be useful towards the satisfaction of her desires.

The young Lady (though she thought of nothing more than present enjoyment, yet by the advice of her Mother, assented first to attempt some notable Abuse, by crossing him in something or other he was fond of; and this resolution she speedily put in practice; so she was no sooner returned to her Parlour, but she presently knockt a little Beagle Witch on the head; a Witch, for which the old Knight had a greater esteem, than for any Horse in his Stable; and because, when it was first discovered to him, he only gently Remonstrat her not to destroy any thing that he liked without his consent; and soon seemed to have forgot it: She therefore, the day following, cut up an excellent Plum-tree that stood in his Garden, the Fruit whereof was very delicate, and fair; and therefore he was very tender of this Tree: This indeed put the Knight into a heat more than was usual; so that, with some passion, demanding the reason of her why she had done it; he was soon answered, that it spoiled the form of the walks,

walks, and that she intended to have a bo-  
 yer of Flowers in the place of it. The good  
 old Man gave way to the humour of his  
 young Wife in this; whereupon she conclu-  
 ded the day was her own, and therefore ac-  
 quaints her Mother with the Success: tel-  
 ling her, That doubtless her Husband could  
 not be offended with what ever liberty she  
 took in the satisfaction of her Humour: To  
 the which, the prudent Matron made this  
 Reply, Daughter, it is very probable that  
 your Husband (through his great Tender-  
 nels to your Person) may give way to you  
 in matters of so small Importance as a Dog,  
 or a Tree, but if you should injure him in a-  
 ny thing reflecting on his Honour, you might  
 find him not so easily Appeased; for old Men  
 are never more Jealous, and Implacable,  
 than when toucht upon that Sore. I have  
 therefore thought on an Expedient, how you  
 may try him in that point; and if you therein  
 can Acquitt your self with the same Success,  
 as in the other two Experiments, I will en-  
 gage the next day to accomplish your Wishes.  
 This last Promise was so powerful with the  
 young Lady, that had it been to have leapt  
 out at a Window, she would scarce have  
 stuck at it, in order to the Consummating  
 her Wishes: she therefore entreats her Mo-  
 ther to let her know what this last Trial  
 might

might be, and assures her, she will not fail to attempt it. Said then the old Lady, You know divers Friends have an Invitation to Wine with your Husband three days hence, therefore I advise you, when we are all just sat at Table, that you pretend to have forgot your Knife, and having secretly taken hold of the Table-cloth, you hastily start up to fetch your Knife, and down all the Plates and Dishes on the Floor. If therefore you come cleaverly off with this, I will make good my Promise. Nothing stuck with the young Wife, but that it must be three days more before she could hope the Enforcement of her Wishes, which she lookt upon to be three Ages; but at last, the day being come, the Guests met, the Table richly furnished with variety of the Rarities, according to the Season; the Chaplain having craved a Blessing, and all prepared to partake of the sumptuous Treat: on a sudden, down come the costly Dishes, with their Garnishes and Sauces, on the Ground. This strange Accident was no small surprisal to the Knight, as well as his noble Guests: But by reason of their presence, he seemed to take no notice of it, farther than to put it off with a Laugh, and making it a part of their Mirth to discourse of it: In the mean time the Servants had soon covered the Table with another brigade

of Dishes, not inferior to the former; so that the Entertainment of the day was not at all lessened thereby. Music, Dancing, and Cards, took up a great part of the night: when every one satisfied with the Magnificence of their Entertainment, took their Leave, leaving the old Knight to consider a way how to cure his Wifes Levity, and the how the next day to entertain her Confessor. But the Morning of this much desired Day being come, the Knight sent one of his Pages for his Chirurgion, who, with many menaces and threats, was forced to draw so much Blood from the Arteries of the young Lady, as for that time stopped the Calenture of her Lust. The fainting Daughter sent for her Indulgent Mother; who glad at heart, that her design had obtained the wished Success; and that her Daughters was thereby prevented of staining the Honour of her Family by her wanton Embriass; gave her the sober Advice, for time to come, to mind her Duty to her Lord and Husband, and not to think of a Lascivious violating that Bed, which she was bound to Preserve from all Pollution. The Languishing young Lady shewing great Penitence, promised to do, to the great satisfaction of all her Friends.



## CHAP. XIII.

**T**he Philosopher Thermus having ended his elegant Narrative, much to the satisfaction of the Emperour; needed not make any Comment thereon; for every Circumstance had made deep Impression on the sensible part of Dioclesian: So that dismissing the Wise Man, with Royal Thanks for his seasonable Admonition; the good Dioclesian had put on a Resolution of having the Case of his Son, the excellent Erastus, debated in full



full Senate: but had that determination frustrated by the most mischievous of her Ser, the Implacable Aphrodicea; who finding her Wiles not likely to take; but that by the Wisdom of the Philosophers, they had been hitherto prevented, and fearing that if Erastus were permitted to Live, it would at some time or other discover her devilish Impostures: She therefore, in the greatest rage of one in Desperation, threatened to Revenge upon her own person, the loss of her Honour, and disappointment of her barbarous design on the Innocent young Prince. So retiring to her Chamber, and shutting all her Servants out of her Presence, she gave them occasion to fear what the Issue of this her seeming Phrensie would be: So that having acquainted the Emperour with what Resolutions she had shut her self up in her Lodging; the easy Dioclesian could not forbear going to her, that he might endeavour to alleviate her Sorrows, and prevent the sad Mischiefs which her Retirement threatened. And here it may not be amiss a little to consider the Artifices of a Malicious, and Implacable Woman, and with what subtilties they seek the accomplishment of their hellish enterprizes. Nothing was more in the Mouth of this wicked Queen, than a sense of the great violence offered to the Honour,

honour of the King: the extreme danger of his  
 Royal Person; and that for her own part,  
 she had no value for her own Life, farther  
 than to seek, and endeavour the Safety of  
 his Imperial Majesty: such expressions as  
 these, were ever now and then the Accents  
 of her Sorrow: when alas, nothing was re-  
 ally less in her heart, but that she might a-  
 gain awaken the Rage of the too credulous  
 Monarch, she refreshes his Memory with a  
 Story of a certain King of England, who  
 having given himself wholly to Pleasure,  
 and the Allurements of Debauchery; and  
 delivered the Care of his People to the ma-  
 nagement of Seven Councellers; they, on  
 the other side, were so addicted to their Co-  
 vetousness; that the common Justice was  
 turned into Moynwood; Extortion, Cruel-  
 ty, and Oppression, taking place of Equity,  
 and Reason. Now, as this Prince had wil-  
 lingly blinded himself in Matters of State,  
 by putting Confidence in such evil Instru-  
 ments; the Justice of Heaven deprived him  
 of the use of his natural Eyes; so that, if  
 at any time he went out of the Gates of the  
 City, he became perfectly blind: This was  
 so great an Affliction to the wretched King,  
 that he sought all probable means for Cure,  
 but finding none; at length, he had notice of  
 a strange natural Magician, or Prophet, by  
 name

name Merlin, born in the Territories of his own Kingdom of England; to whom, having applied himself for advice, he had from him an astonishing Relation of some Magical Balls that continually were burning underneath the Ground, over which, his Royal Chamber and Bed stood: so that, until these Balls could be extinguished, there was no hope of Cure for this Princes blindness. Whereupon the Celler being searched, there was found underneath the Pavement, the likeness of a Candle, wherein were seven burning Balls, exactly to the number of his seven State Ministers or Jugglers, one of them being bigger than the rest. The King finding this strange Relation of Merlin to be so far true, Counsell'd with him, how they might be extinguished, and the Malignity of their Influence prevented.

Know then Mighty Prince (said Merlin) that these seven Balls are your seven Counsellors, to whom you have committed the Management of the great Affairs of your Kingdom; and as long as you suffer these to live, the Balls will not cease to burn, nor can your Sight return unto you: but if your Majesty make trial by taking off the head of the chief of them, you will find that the great Ball will be dead and extinct; and so consequently of the rest. Whereupon the King

ordered the Captain of his Guard to cut off the head of his greatest or chief Minister of State, and immediately the great Ball disappeared: then gradually Lopping off the rest, the Balls all vanished, and the Charm ceased: The King returned to his perceptible Faculty, and the due exercise of his Government, to the great happiness and satisfaction of all his People. Thus have I given Your Imperial Majesty, a short, but true Account of this Story of the famous Mirlin; and I fear Your Highness needs the Council of such a Prophet; for certainly, as long as you are managed by the Councils of these seven Masters, Your Majesty will be blinded, and infatuated in relation to your own welfare, and that of your Empire. Therefore, although hitherto the humble Request I have made to Your Imperial Majesty, hath not had that Success, as for your Honour and Safety I only desired: I hope your serious consideration of the foregoing Relation will at least animate you to secure the Fame and Grandure of the excellent Dioclesian. Here a torrent of Crocodile Tears kept her discourse for some time; till gaining breath of her sighs, she added, But oh! Sir, be sure first strike at the great Ball, the mischievous and disloyal Erastus. How Powerful and Charming is the Eloquence

quence of a Woman's Passion, especially  
 humour'd to the height, and between a pair  
 of warm Sheets (for now you must know,  
 the Wrothens Dioclesian had laid himself by  
 her, on her Treacherous Bed.) What can  
 be more a Devil, than a wicked Woman in  
 a Certain Consult: Certainly it had that  
 Operation on the easy old Man, that he a-  
 gain pronounced that most unjust, and un-  
 natural Sentence; and ordered the most vir-  
 tuous, and innocent Prince Erastus, to be  
 Executed the next Morning.



H A P.

## CHAP. XIV.

**A**ND now let us a little cast our Eyes in to the Prison, and pay a Visit to the abused Prince in his Misfortunes. Here we see one of the greatest Examples of heroic Chastity, Sentenced for no less than Incest, and a Rape: A Son, the most Loyal, Obedient, Dutiful, and Affectionate; Condemned for a Traytor, Disobedient, Undutiful; and void of natural Affection: And can the All-seeing Justice behold this! Can the Gods see the Compleatest Resemblances of their Divinity, Goodness, and Excellence, dress'd up in the Form of Devils, and Condemned for such? All this by those who really are what they would represent the Virtuous to be, As it is well expressed by a Poet:

**T**hey were so Ripe for Hell! Could she delay,  
Not Gape, and Swallow quick, her greedy Prey?  
Could Earth indure  
Their Footsteps? was the Air grown so impure,

To

To give them Breath? Could Heaven behold  
their Riot

With patient Eyes? or could the Gods be  
Quiet?

Yet had the Learning of this young Prince  
in Jambou's his Poets, that he Contemn'd  
the utmost, their Rage and Cruelty could  
impose upon him: Having learnt of the Phi-  
losophers, that he was born a Mortal, and  
therefore must once Dye, He calmly expec-  
ted it; Submitting the time and manner to  
the Gods.

And now, in all appearance, it drew near;  
for the Emperors Commands were enjoyn-  
ed with the greatest Severity, and on Pe-  
nalty of utmost Rigour, not to be delayed  
this Morning; which was the fourth time  
the most inhumane Sentence had been pro-  
nounced. To prevent this, the studious Fi-  
losophos waited the first opening of the Pal-  
lace Gate; and having an Opportunity, got  
into the Royal Apartment among some Musi-  
cians that were come to attend the Queen:  
And they understanding, by the Pages of  
the Chamber, that the great Satisfaction  
he had received by the King's last Order,  
and concluding her Design now obtained,  
was fallen into a sound Sleep, after the good  
Success of her flight-endeavours; so there  
being

being no farther occasion of them there; he waited on the King, who was now withdrawn into his Dressing-room: But quickly perceiving the good Philosopher, and forgetting his business; having discharged at him several Fire-balls from his wrathful Eyes at last, he thunders on him a volley of smart Shot, in bitter words, after this manner: Cannot (then) the Wags of my Palladium my Guards, nor my Royal Displeasure protect my Person from being haunted with these Philosophical Fiends? Impudent Dog! How durst thou appear in our Presence, whom thou, and thy infamous Crew have so much abused: was it not enough, that you rob'd me of my only Son, whom I beliberated to your Care, with the use, both of his Tongue and Reason: Whom now by your Sorceries, you have deprived of both, and poison'd him with all manner of Vice: whom (for the Reverence ye ought to have to our Person; and the Regard to the Roman Empire) you should have instructed in the best Science of Honour, and Virtue. But as ye have sought my Ruine, and the Destruction of the Empire; be assured, yours is not far off: For, if our Justice spare not our own Impious Son; think not that you, his Diabolical Tutors shall escape. During all this Storm, Enoscopos stood like a picture



ture of a Light within-man before the In-  
 quisition: But the Tempest being somewhat  
 over, and Dioclesian almost out of Breath;  
 some of the Lords there present, who had  
 long known the Philosophers to be persons  
 that through the World had acquired a vast  
 Stock of Reputation; and especially that So-  
 leman being present, who was sent to fetch  
 the Prince to Court, and had there heard a  
 sufficient proof of his excellent Acquirements.  
 These I say, mistrusting some monstrous  
 Intrigue in the bottom of this strange Trans-  
 action, prevailed with the Emperour, That  
 the Sage Philosopher might have freedom to  
 deliver the Passage that had brought him thi-  
 ther. With much ado he had Permission,  
 and with an unmov'd Athenian Face; but  
 such Majestick Gravity, as commanded  
 Reverence, even from Dioclesian himself;  
 Episcopos thus addrest to the King.

Great Prince, could the fence of your  
 mighty Displeasure, or the fear of  
 Death have afrighted me from the perfor-  
 mance of my Duty to your Majesty; and those  
 great Obligations to common Justice: I had  
 not at this time given Your Majesty the trou-  
 ble of so loath'd a Presence. But ill doth he  
 deserve the name of a Philosopher, that pre-  
 fers not his Adherence to Moral Virtue, and  
 the

the publick Good, beyond all the gay Felicities that deceived Mortals Idolize. Nor have I any reason to believe, that Humanity has so far forsaken the Roman Emperor, but that he will permit a defence in the behalf of the Innocent; & not suffer so rigid a Sentence to be put in Execution on the bare word of a weak and perhaps deceitful Woman. And I humbly beg Your Imperial Majesty, not to be offended at the harshness of the Expression. And if you will this once more grant your Princely Remand of the Sentence against Prince *Craesus*, until I have, by infallible Demonstration, convinced Your Majesty, that in this affair, the greatest Caution, and Circumspection is most agreeable to the proceedings of the Roman Emperor: Then let me bear him Company in his Fate; and I shall, with all acknowledgment, for so great Clemency put my Head under your Royal Feet.

The Emperoz touched with a Sense of Humanity, of which the Philosopher had minded him; and being too, out of the Circle of Aphrodicea; began somewhat to Relent, and dispatched a Messenger to the Captain of the Guard, who was now on his way to the place of Execution, to return the Prisoner again, till farther Order. In the mean

mean while Enosopos entertained the Emperor with this Relation.

The unfortunate (because credulous) Cleander liv'd at Rhodes, and was justly esteemed one of the Wealthiest, and most Honourable Inhabitants of that famous City: This person being, by the Importunity and Advice of his Friends, Married to a Lady, whose Beauty, Fortune, and Family, spoke her no less Honourable; did, as is usual among persons of Quality, commit the management of all Household Affairs to the Conduct of his Lady: who having with her a Paid-Servant, that had always waited on her at School, and of whose Fidelity and Vertue he had a very good Opinion; therefore he intrusted her, mainly, with the oversight of the other Servants. This Girl being young and wanton, out of her Ladys sight, had one day got into her Embraces a young Lad of the Family; and this Lady, by accident, took them in the very Act: whereupon being much surprized, that her Woman (in whom she had the greatest Confidence imaginable) should, by her wantonness, pull so great a dishonour on her Husbands House: She was once of the mind to have told her Lord of it; but fearing, lest his resentment of so foul an Act might have too far inflamed his passion, and have urged him to some Violencies, that afterwards might have reflected to his prejudice. She, poor Lady, endeavoured, for that time, to conceal the Fault of her Servant; but suffered it not to escape without her own most just Correction,

on, for immediately she turned the Fellow out of doors, and having soundly Rated and Corrected her Maid, she permitted her still to fill the same place in her Family; hoping so gentle a Chastisement might work her Amendment. But alas! the sad effect of base Ingratitude, and the Rage of disappointed Lust; nothing certainly is more implacable than a Strumpet, balkt in the enjoyment of her inordinate Pleasures: This will appear by the sequel of my Story, which I shall as much as possible abridge.

This detestable Slut, although her Indulgent Mistress, had laid on her the Obligation Your Majesty hath heard; studied nothing from that time, but to Revenge the Loss of her loose Pleasures, with the Loss of the Life of that most Vertuous and Innocent Lady: And accordingly, one Afternoon, when her Mistress was diverting herself in the Garden, with some other Ladies, her Master alone reading in the Parlor, she takes this opportunity to insinuate into his belief the most incredible Falsehood of the World; but having long deliberated how to varnish and disguise it; she thus began her Treasons.

Sir, I most humbly crave Pardon of your Honour for this, my bold, intrusion into your Privacy; and withal, I earnestly

tear you to believe nothing but the hearty  
Zeal I have for your Happiness, and just  
satisfaction could have put me upon it : This  
you will have, all the reason in the world  
to believe, when you perceive, that I, who  
have ever been dyed up at the Feet of your  
Lady ; I, who so particularly share in her  
extraordinary Favour, and that can hope for  
no happiness, but what her Benevolence  
imparts to me ; that even I am compelled  
by the obligations I owe to Virtue ; not to  
see so excellent a Person, so good a Master  
as your self, in the highest measure Abused.  
And therefore, with the greatest Diligence  
to my own Circumstances, I come to de-  
clare to you that Secret, which I much fear  
will Transport you into some extraordinary  
Violence to your self ; you having a long  
time had the misfortune to have been abused  
by one of the most Treacherous of Woman-  
kind. This Sir, is that which hath made  
my Food unpleasant, and my Sleep full of  
distraction ; when I consider, that a Person  
of her excellent Endowments, extraordina-  
ry Education, most reputed Virtue ; should  
lay aside the Regard she ought to have to her  
own Honour, the happiness, the satisfaction  
of the most incomparable Husband in the  
World ; and suffer her self to be debauched  
by a Boy that lives by the meanest dunceries

F

of

of the house: Here she was stop't in her Career, by the half distracted Cleander; who had long before this, torn any other Tongue that had been guilty but of half these Blatphemies, out of the curst Traducers Throat; but considering the Relation this wench stood in to his Lady, and her entire dependance upon her Favour; he was so miserably included, as to give her leave to go on with her diabolical Narrative; which she did in this manner: The Gods are witnesses how oft, and with how earnest supplication I have, on my knees, pray'd her not to defile so Sacred a Type, as the Holy Priest besoynd her in, with so unworthy a prostitution of her excellent Person, and violating her Obligations to the best of Husbands. But it hath been my unhappiness to heat the Air, and all the Success my unwearied Endeavours have met with, have been, my self to be beaten; of which, I think some of the Marks yet remain. So that, seeing she hath laid aside all sense of Shame, and honour: I could not possibly rest, until I had discharged my Conscience in making known a practise so disloyal and brutish unto yourself; that by such means, as shall be most agreeable to Reason, and the innate Law of Humanity, you may endeavour yet to reclaim her from utter Ruine and Perdition.

But

But I most earnestly beg of your Honour, not to seem to take any notice hereof, until I have given you an Ocular Demonstration of what I have now related.

Oe Gods! said Cleander: and is it possible so excellent Beauty and Sweetness, can harbour a Soul so Deformed and Disbellish! Oh! most unfortunate Cleander: Could the Fates mark out no one to make the Object of their utmost Violence and Injury, but unhappy thee? A miserable Man. But perceiving the Ladies coming in from the Garden, he sent out the wench, ordering her to take no notice of what had past: and put himself into the best posture he could to receive them. Which he did, with the best assembled Countenance that possible he could; so that it happened no notice was taken of the disorder he was in. From this time, his great care was to mark, and observe all passages betwixt his poor innocent Wife, and her reputed Paramour, who was a Boy, Son to a Tenant of his Ladies Father, and having ever been bred up in the Family, was very diligent in observing his Masters and Mistresses Commands; Every cast of an Eye was attended on by the officious Henry (so that was his name) who little thought how dearly he was, in a short time, to suffer for the honest Testimonies of his Fidelity.

ty. But not a gesture or motion, though never so innocent; and that before, past only as instances, honest diligence; but now, by the Eyes of Jealousy, were represented wanton, and as having a lascivious tendency: Insomuch, that this Humour rankling, and being fomented in the Heart of the wretched Cleander; it rendred him incapable of receiving any real Satisfaction in any thing. Therefore he determined now to enter into a final Consult with his Hellish Informant, how to have this Deceler Demonstration, upon which, he resolved immediately to dispatch the Objects of his Rage: She soon told him, That if he only took his Cane and Globes, and pretended a visit for three or four hours time, and then made a short turn in the space of an hour, she would not fail to be as good as her word; provided he only came in at the door (which she would leave open) without knocking, and straight repair to his Chamber. To which he having consented; and told his poor innocent Lady that he was going to see some Friends, from whom he should not return until the Evening; putting on his Rapier, he went forth, taking no Servant with him. The tender Lady perceiving her Husband gone forth, and having observed of late, a Cloud to sit on that Brow, that always has wont to be



he serene and clear; being somewhat indisposed went to her Chamber, and lay on her Bed, to sigh away a fit of Melancholly. Now was the cursed Maid to play her Games which she did in this manner: Having (as she was Governesse of the House) commanded the poor distrustless Page to get up into his Chamber, and exercise himself in his Writing; she had now Lodged her Wey, and was ready, as soon as she could discern the Abused Cleander coming home, to send him into her Ladies Chamber. This she had soon occasion to do, for perceiving her Master at hand, she calls Henry; you must presently go to your Mistress, who hath an Errand to send you in: The poor Lad dispatches to his Ladies Chamber; where she having given an account, that she call'd him not, his Master met him just coming out of the dooz; and seeing his Lady on the bed; without farther Examination, immediately runs him through; of which, he presently dyed: then dragging the amazed Lady to the same place, he cast her on the Page, and sent them together to Elisium. Thus were two Innocents most barbarously Murthered, a most Honourable Family destroyed, and all by the over-credulous Rashness of Cleander: who having the bare Suggestion of a depraved and malicious Slut, most cruelly

Butcher'd the most Loyal, Spotless, and  
 Subgent Wife in the World; and sent a  
 Cruel Page to attend her Ghost. These  
 Royal Sir, are the effects of misguided Pas-  
 sion, and blind Justice; that strikes the blow  
 without considering the Equity of the Cause.  
 Let it suffice, that Cleander afterward ha-  
 ving destroy'd his Peace, had this Hellish  
 Murther on the Rack, which Confessing the  
 whole Truth in his presence, he immediat-  
 ly cut out her Heart, and Stab'd himself;  
 falling a Sacrifice to his own remediless  
 Rashness: And thereby giving occasion for  
 this Epitaph, which afterward was set on  
 his Tomb.

### Cleanders Epitaph.

**T**HIS Marble Weeps wretched Cleanders  
 Fate;  
 Who saw his blinded Phrensy, when too late  
 And vainly fell his Fault to Expiate.  
 Reader, beware of Femal's treacherous Tales,  
 Learn hence the dire Event, when Reason  
 fails;  
 And blind, rash Passion Impiously prevails.

Thus Royal Sir, have I given Your Ma-  
 jesty the Relation of this Famous Story of  
 Padua; on which, if you please seriously to  
 reflect,

reflect, you will find it very pertinent to the  
 great Affair now in debate. Here was a  
 foul Crime charged on those that understood  
 nothing but Innocence; a forward, and easy  
 mistrust, grounded on a Malicious Slander,  
 that vouched but by one Witness: the Con-  
 sequence whereof was an Act of Indelibe-  
 rate, & unparallel'd Cruelty, it ended in the  
 Destruction of an Honourable Family: But  
 what would not the Knight have given, when  
 he once understood his Irreparable Error,  
 what would he not have suffered, to have re-  
 lieved his Loss, and the Murder of two  
 Innocents? But 'twas too late, the fatal  
 Blow was given; and that Sword that had  
 been stained in the Blood of the Guiltless,  
 by the same hand Revenged it on the Guilty.  
 I need make no farther Remarks on the  
 Allusion of the Circumstances, where so pro-  
 found Wisdom is present, as could give in-  
 to much abstruser points. If what I have  
 said avail to the Advantage of the excellent  
 Erastus; so that a rash Sentence may not  
 pass against him, without the Debate of a  
 full Senate, which is most Consonant to  
 the Honour, and Grandure of the Potentest  
 Emperors in the World: I have then the  
 Answer of my Prayers. Thus, with a con-  
 stant Gladty, the Famous Enoscos ended  
 his Learned Oratton: Which wrought so

effectually, both on the Emperoz, and many of the Senate there present; that for that day his Request was granted.



## CHAP. XV.

**T**he Emperoz (as was said) having complied with the Request of the Learned Philosopher, at the instance of the Senators; and finding that he should always be vexed with the Queens Importunities, whilst he continued in the same Pallace with her, Removed to a Castle he had about sixteen Miles

Wiles out of the City; leaving Orders with his Senators, that they should in the mean time Debate the Affair of the Prince; and Act therein, as was agreeable to the Justice of the Empire.

But who can think so easily to evade the Crafts of an implacable Woman: As the Poet Sings:

So hard it is, where an old Grutch is  
To get out of a Womans Glutches.

For no sooner had Aphrodicea understood of the King's Progress, which was taken without her privacy; but though she had met with four Defeats of her Serpentine Wiles: She resolved to attempt the Fifth; intending that her Pen should make a deeper Impression, than possible her words could before: Therefore entering her Closet, and dropping some of the Merjuice of her Eyes into her Standish; she wrote a Letter to the Emperor, to this effect.

The Letter.

Sir,

THOUGH, contrary to the Laws of Honour, and Your Royal Contract, you have Conveyed your self from your Pallace, without permitting the Unfortunate Aphro-  
dicea

nicea to know of your Removal: Yet Your Majesty may be assured the Walls of your Castle will prove too Weak a Fence against the Batteries of my Just Importunities. Does any Story mention an Emperor (who ought to be the Standard of Justice) that should four times violate his Sacred Promise, and that upon one and the same Occasion: And especially, when for ought we know, his Life (or at least his Honour, that ought to be much dearer) is so visibly Exposed thereby? How ill doth the Sovereign Diadem set on her Brow, that is denied the Birth-right of the meanest Vassal in Rome. Remember (*Dioclesian*) I say remember the Burning *Balls*! But if you are still resolved to be led by the Nose by a parcel of Thred-bare *Philosophers*: I will once more enter my Memorial against your irregular Proceedings, and Relate to Your Majesty, what happened to a great Treasurer of *Egypt*, Who having a Riotous young Extravagant to his Son; the too Indulgent Father took care forsooth, to breed him up in the Study of *Philosophy*, and to that end committed him to the Care of such another crew of worthy Tutors, as you disposed your Son unto: These, in short time, made even with the good old Man's Estate, and reduced him to such a state of Poverty, that he had not longer where-  
 withal

withal to subsist: Therefore calling his young **Philosopher** to Council, he advised with him, what were best to be done to Conceal the shame of his Poverty from the World. The Lad having sufficiently been Trained up in the science of Mischief, adviseth his Father to make some secret Passage under Ground, in at the Foundation of a certain Tower, where the Treasure of the **Egyptian** Kings was kept, and that from thence, they might privately supply themselves, as often as Need required: Present Necessity made every thing seem probable that presented it self; and therefore, without farther debate, the old Treasurer sets upon the Enterprize, with his graceless Son; who having found a Cave, not far from the Tower Wall, that formerly had been the Habitation of a **Permit**; they, through one side of this Vault, soon wrought Access unto the Treasure: But the Crany being of so small Dimention, that one Man could hardly, and with much difficulty enter it: The Father made a shift to put himself in thereat, and conveyed thence so great a quantity of Gold, as for a long time Maintained the Port of their Family. In short, this Store was likewise spent, and a second Adventure must be made for a farther Supply: The poor old Man once more puts him-

himself into the Bilbo's, but not with such Success as before: For by this time the Keepers of the Tower had discovered, that some of the Treasure had been conveyed away; and as they supposed by means of that Crevise, which they observed in the Wall: Therefore, that they might make sure of their Prey, they fixed there so Artificial a Gin, that whosoever was once got in, could by no means escape there-from with Life: This the old Treasurer soon perceived (for he was taken in the Toyl) and it being impossible for the young Man to bring him off alive; he most unnaturally put an end to that Life that had given him his; by taking off his Fathers Head: Which he did, that the Officers not knowing the Body, the Surviving Family might escape that Severity, that otherwise the Law would have inflicted on them, for an Offence so heinous. But his Wickedness ended not here, for returning home, and knowing his Mother had been privy to the Theft; doubting her weakness might some time or other betray the Treason, he most inhumanly knockt her on the Head. Here Mighty Prince, you have a plain Demonstration of what must be expected from a Son Educated amongst **Philosophers**: They only wait to see you in the Snare, and you will soon fare as the old Treasurer;



Treasurer; and as for me, I shall soon follow you in Fate; which indeed is the only Consideration that affords me any Comfort. For what Pleasure is it possible the wretched **Aphrodicea** can be capable of, after the Murder of the unwary **Dioclesian**. What shall I say my Dear Lord? must I then be the Contempt of the whole World, whilst Foreign Princes deride; and my own Subjects despise my Misfortune? I have taken the boldness thus once more to cast my self at Your Royal Feet, not doubting, but your Natural Inclinations to the Common Justice, will not permit you any longer to deny a due Reparation to the Honour of the most Unfortunate

**Aphrodicea.**

This Letter having Signed with her privy Signet, she gave to one of her Bed-Chamber, to be speedily delivered to the Emperor; which accordingly being performed: **Dioclesian**, at the perusal of it, was like one at the violent return of a Feavor Fit; for though his absence from her perpetual Clamours, had procured him a tollerable good Settlement of Mind, and the Feavor of his Passion intermitted; yet as soon as he had perused this Paper, it presently set him all in a Flame. So that immediately calling

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for Pen and Ink, he, with his own Hand, wrote an Order to the Captain of his Guard, to deal with Erastus according to the pleasure of Aphrodicea; for that he had wholly put that Affair under her Determination: And Sealing it with his Royal Signet, he sent it back by the same Messenger.



## CHAP. XVI.

**B**UT as these things could not be so secretly managed, but that the Sages had Intelligence thereof: The tender Philantropus, who was to Obviate the Fifth Sentence against

gainst the most Innocent Prince; very early in the Morning pressing through the Guards, who had great veneration for him; and perhaps some regard to the preservation of the most to be Lamented Erastus: It matters not much upon what occasion, but the resolute Philosopher having got to the Royal Presence (depending perhaps on the Friendship of the Stars) he gave not leave to the Emperour, to muster up his Passion, by the usual method of telling him his resentments, or displeasure, but to prevent the gathering of that Storm, He presently throws himself on the Ground, and in a posture that testified the greatest transport of extreme Sorrow: He began with most admirable Eloquence, to bewail the Ruin, both of the Emperour, and the Empire, in a Language so Charming, so vigorous force of Reason; that Dioclesian himself thought nothing less than Marble could be unmoved at it. What, said the compassionate Philantropus, and is it the inevitable Misfortune of Crown'd Heads to be thus prejudiced, and blinded by the most inhumane, cruel, barbarous, and perfidious Sex! Cannot the Sacred Diadem, nor the Interest of the Empire (in which their own is concerned) prevent this Blanket-Dominion, Sad Fate of Monarchy! Consider most Excellent Emperour;  
but

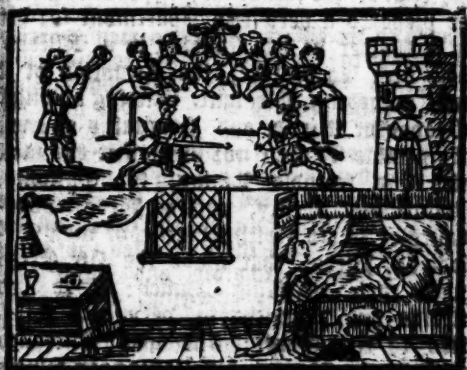
but what it is you have Signed, and at whose Instance; and you will doubtless see the greatest Reason in the World, to retract a Determination so directly opposite to your own Royal Interest, and the Honour of the Roman Empire. Must the most Illustrious, and only Branch of your Princely Stock; the only Hope of the Empire; the most accomplished, and greatest Example of Heroick Virtue, be Sacrificed to the Lust, Malice, and Designs of an insatiate Woman? The most Sovereign Justice of the Gods forbid it! One would have thought, the sad Instances my Brethren had given Your Majesty of the Constant Treachery of that Sex, might at least have tyed Your Majesty to your Promise of having the Matter debated in full Senate! Which I am apt to believe, would sound much more for the Honour of Dioclesian's Justice, and the privileges of the Roman Senate, than thus rashly; and, as it were, by your own Hand, to cut off one, whom the Gods have destin'd to give Laws to Mankind; and not only Subjugate Kingdoms, but Hearts to the Roman Yoke. I shall only make bold to refresh your Royal Remembrance, with one or two Stories of the Subtilty, and unmatched Cruelty of Woman-kind; that when you have taken a view of them in their own Actions;

Actions; you may be the better Induced not to comply with their Flatteries. And because what I am going to say, is so generally known, I shall give Your Imperial Majesty the less trouble; and will only give a hint. The first shall be of Cleander; whose unchast Wife frequenting Night Debauches, whilst her Husband was Sacrificing to Morpheus; he had blinded his Intellect with frequent Excuses for her absence, which was often perceived by her Husband, and he, as often, had his Credulity Imposed on, by her sophistical Shams and Excuses. But one Night, having a more than ordinary mistrust, he goes down out of his Bed, and makes the Dog fast on the inside; which the loose Harlot perceiving, at her return from her night ramble, made many Intreaties to her Husband to open the Door, that she might not be Apprehended by the Watch: For such was the strictness of that City, that whosoever was taken by them in their Rounds, were most Ignominiously exposed to the Publick, for Persons incontinent, and vitious Livers: The old Man thinking this little Sincerity might Correct the heat of her Inclinations, seemed to defer giving her Admittance, and would have wrought her into a Promise of Reformation: When the subtle Courtesan ran to a Wall there adjoining; and casting in a great Stone, made the overcredulous Husband believe, that she had thrown her self into it; whilst indeed she only convey'd her self behind the

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 P. 81;

**Dooch:** The poor Husband runs to the Well like a Man in distraction, calling on his Wife; and letting down the Bucket, in order to preserve her from perishing; cursing himself, that he had so much regard on her patience, to bring her to so miserable and shameful an end. In fine, the Man having tired himself with fruitless Lamentations, & being almost starved with cold, having only his Shirt on; and now concluding his Wife buried in the Water; was in great Sorrow returning to his Bed, when, to his great Surprizal he found the Dooch: What against him. What shall I say? It was now the implacable Fiend's part to play; which he did to purpose; for a thousand importunities, and protestations of the truth of his Intentions could not prevail with her; she was deaf to all, kept him in the Street till the Watch came, and there Accused the Innocent old Man of Riba'dry, and Incontinency to the Officers; charging, and loading him with a thousand Crimes that he knew not of. Thus was this Abused Man carried to a cold Prison, and having passed the Night in incredible Misery, was the next day set in the Pillory to the great Astonishment of the Citizens, who had known him a Person of a long, and unblemish'd Reputation. Thus was the Shameless Whore permitted to Triumph in her Diabolical Revenge on her Honest and Immaculate Husband; here is Female Craft and Malice to the height exalted: The Poal of which, I shall

I will humbly submit to your most Serene  
Majesties Consideration; not doubting but  
it may produce in Your Royal Breast, a Re-  
solution of Reinguishing the Influences of  
that Treacherous Ser. And I will hum-  
bly crave Your Princely Pardon to refer  
the Rectit of my other Instance to the next  
Chapter.



## CHAP. XVII.

**T**he Emperoz being somewhat wrought  
upon by the former Relation of Phi-  
lantropus, was very Attentive for the second;  
which the Philosopher thus began. Should  
I, most Mighty Emperoz, undertake to set  
out

Out the Frauds of evil Women; time  
 would fail me, for there is no end of these  
 Treachery; however, I shall make one  
 short Instance more to confirm what I have  
 asserted: It is said, The Governour of Mo-  
 rocco had a Wife so Fair, that he feared  
 the Power of her Beauty would make  
 Prize of all she looked on; to prevent which,  
 he prepared a very rich Apartment for her  
 in a Tower he had standing in a Wilder-  
 ness near his Palace, the Situation of it  
 was exceeding Pleasant, standing amongst  
 Groves of Myrtle, and Fountains of most  
 Admirable Work: nor wanted it the most  
 rich and splendid Lining, for Gilding,  
 Painting, Tapestry, curious Beds, abun-  
 dance of Plate, with Cabinets of most Re-  
 ligious Birds, that made the Air Echo  
 with their warbling Musick: She had  
 Maids and Eunuchs in very rich Libe-  
 ries to Attend her; and was Carressed  
 with all the Charming Dallances of a King's  
 Mistress. Yet amongst all these Splendid  
 Entertainments, she was Unpleasant, Sol-  
 len, and Unsatisfied; for the Governour  
 himself kept the Key of this Enchanted Ca-  
 stle, never permitting her to come forth,  
 but on some particular days; and that on-  
 ly in his own Presence; nor admitting a-  
 ny to the sight of her but her own Ser-  
 vants



vants before-mentioned. Yet it so happened, that one day at a Willing, the Governour having let her by him under a rich Pavillion, she was observed by a young Lord of Greece, who, at first sight, took the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy to her Beauty; and after performing things beyond the power of herself in Honour of her: But it was a long time, and cost him many a tiresome Night before he could understand how it was possible for him to let her understand his Passion; till at last, having understood of her strict Confinement to this Tower, he took a House of a great Courtiers, who was gone beyond Sea on an Embassy; which House stood void, and on one side of this pleasant Wilderness: So that having furnished his new House very Richly, and fallen into some Acquaintance with the Governour, whom he often treated with a Magnificence, more agreeable to a great Prince, than a private Noble-man; he began to consider how he might accomplish his Project, and Arrive to the Enjoyment of the Adored Idea of his Love: Consulting therefore the most advantageous Windows of his Lodging; he at last observed a Casement that fronted directly over a Walk to the Window of this Recluse Closet: So that sometimes by

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the

the advantage of the Sun, he could shew himself to her, and observe her Gesture (in which as yet was all the Language that passed) thereupon. To be short, it was come thus far, that when a Rose was shewed out at his Window, another would peep out of hers; if he sometimes with his Looking Glass Darted the Sun-Beams into her Closet, she would give his Chamber a Reflection of the same Divertissement; so that now there wanted nothing but a nearer Access to their being inwardly Acquainted. In order to this, a way was found to dig a passage from a Vault under his House, through the Foundation of the Governors Garden-wall; which being well managed, obtained a Secret Entrance at the Root of a great Poplar Tree, standing, by a Brook, in a very obscure part of the Wilderness: This Tree being hollow, proved the most Advantageous to the furtherance of their Designs imaginable. For one Evening, observing the Coast to be clear, and his Maid at her Window-debation, he fired a Paper to the end of a Thread, & gently letting it slide out at the Casement, would, in her sight, draw it up again; so that often repeating the Signal, she became instructed, That it would be needful for her to hang a Thread to her closet Window; which

which having done, our young Gallant took the occasion to pass through his Loop hole, and fasten a French gilded Paper (sealed with perfumed Wax, having the Impression of a wounded Heart) to the end of the string: So the Fish having took the Hook, was soon Landed in the Fair Hand of the Amorous Lady, who having opened it, found therein these Verses.

**H**OW unhappy a Lover am I!  
Thus to Sigh for my Whistle in Vain,  
All my hope of Delight, is another Man's  
Who is Happy, whilst I am in Pain. (Right,  
But were the vast Rocks thy strong Tower,  
I would rend their tough Cement in sunder,  
And force my dear Saint from her Bower,  
Or I'd borrow of Vulcan his Thunder.

She having read this Rapture, and performed all those Solemnities to the Paper, that Love-Sick Simps are wont, took an occasion to drop another in return, the inside whereof contained this:

Sir,

**I** Have no Vein in Poetry, and therefore must crave leave to thank you for your extraordinary Passion in Prose; and that I may the sooner have an opportunity to do

it, do you wear the inclosed Signet in my Husbands presence, and with all possible speed let me have it again: If the project take, you may in short time make me the happy, who am now the Unfortunate

*She then took the Signet, and put it on her finger: Cloc.*

The Transported Greek having received this first Pledge of her Affection, laid it next his Heart, and making a hundred Cringes to his Fool, basted through his Conny-berry, to understand the Pleasure of his Goddess. He had no sooner read it, but on goes the Ring, and the guilt Coach is immediately made ready; not a Page but had his best Embroidered Liberty: in this Equipage, two stately white Flanders Hares rattle him to the Gate of the Court, where having understood, that the Governour was at a Gaming Ordinary at the other end of the Town, he orders his Coach to drive thither; and going into the Room, after paying the usual Complements, the Tables were took in hand, and consequently the Ring displaid it self to the Eye of the Governour; who being much surprized with Apprehension, that it was a Ring he had given his Lady, and suspecting that it might be feloniously come by, was almost at his Wits end; his Countenance changed,

his

his Breath grew short, and he was very near falling into a Swoon; but at last, considering that it might be a mistake, he made enquiry of the young Grecian, where that Ring might have been bought; who returning, that it had been given him by his Father: The Governour, at that time, made no farther Appearance of being uneasy. Some Quinins having been got and lost between the Gamsters, and plenty of Bottles emptied; the Grecian took leave of the Governour, leaving him in company with some Nobles, who intended to pass the rest of the Night in a Ball. In the mean time, our Tower-Lady having nothing on but a Damask night Gown, was at her post, expecting the Result of her Lovers Enterprize: And it was not long e're, by the Moon-light, she perceived her good Angel under the Window; who having fastned the Ring to the Thread, gave his Mistress a safe opportunity to make the best of her Stratagem on the deluded Governour; which she did in this manner: For he was no sooner returned the next Morning to his Pallace, but immediately he makes to his Ladies Chamber, and setting the suspected Ring on her Finger; withal, observing the exact Resemblance in all things, between that, and what he had

had

had lately seen on the young Lords Hand  
 it put him upon some strange Considerations  
 which occasioned a more than ordinary Melancholly  
 on his Fore-head. The Lady, according to the true method of Woman-  
 craft, taking notice thereof; and being seemingly  
 inquisitive of the cause of it: After he had, with  
 some pretences, excus'd himself; at length acknowledged  
 he had been surprized to see a Ring so (in all things)  
 alike hers, worn by a Gentleman of his Acquaintance;  
 but withal, told her, That he was satisfied they might both be made  
 by one and the same Work-man. Say Sir, replied the  
 Bishop, you will have but little reason to wonder at a  
 resemblance of this kind in things Inanimate, which may  
 be formed to any figure, or proportion the Artist  
 pleaseth; for, if I am not misinform'd, there is  
 lately Arrived at the young Grecian Lords House,  
 a Lady much resembling my self, who hath a little  
 Dog so like mine, that it is impossible to know them  
 one from the other: That is somewhat strange,  
 said the Governor; but I will endeavour to satisfy  
 my self in that point, in a little time. In short,  
 this was but an Artifice of the Romans, the sooner to  
 accomplish the Enjoyment of her Adored Grecian:  
 So that as soon as the Gover-

had left her, she gave the signal, and  
dropt a Note out of her Window, contain-  
ing what you may read in the following  
discourse.

**T**He Plot of the Ring hath so well Suc-  
ceeded, that if you can procure a Gal-  
ley to Convey you into your own Country;  
I have laid a Design that will infallibly give  
you the opportunity of taking me along  
with you; for as soon as I have Notice that  
a Vessel is ready, I will convey my self by  
the Window, which is toward the private  
Passage you have made into your Lodging;  
and there put such a Device in Execution,  
as shall not fail to Accomplish our Mutual  
Desires. In the mean time, be sure, as soon  
as you have secured a Vessel, Invite the  
Governor to Dine with you the day fol-  
lowing,

*Craspe,*

For that was the then Queen of Moroc-  
co's Name. The Grecian presently got  
to the Port, and finding there one of the  
Galleys of his own Country newly Arri-  
ved, he hired it for his Service, and or-  
dered the Men to be in readiness the next  
Morning, to put to Sea as he should com-  
mand

mand them. This being dispatched, he presently Applies himself to the King, acquainting him, That upon some Important Notice he had lately received from his own Country, he must crave his Majesties leave to depart, and invest himself with a principallity lately fallen to him; and that a Vessel was ready in the Port to attend him. Only he prayed the King, that, for the many Favours he had confer'd upon him, it would please his Highness to accept of a Dinner with him the day following; which the good King accepting, and withal, testifying great Sorrow for the Loss of a person he had so great a Value for. As for this Grecian Prince, they parted for that time: this being soon signified to the Queen, she put all things in readines for the next Morning; giving Notice to her Paramour, That he should expect her at the Foot of the Poplar Tree in the Garden. The King in the Morning, considering he was that day to Dine with, and take his leave of his great Favorite the young Grecian Lord, went early to see the Queen, and acquainted her, he was to Dine abroad that day, and that she was not to expect him until the Evening: from thence, he went to the Council-Chamber, to give Order for the dispatches of that day. He had no sooner



left the Queen, but she placing her self, and her Dog in a Basket, fastened by a little Pulley on the outside of the Window, and holding by the Cord, gently let her self down into the Garden; and by the young Lord was conveyed through the private Passage into his Lodging; and being got into his Closet, with his help, was put into the Habit of a Grecian Lady, richly Adorned with costly Jewels; and the Plot laid, that the young Grecian was to Affirm her to be a Sweet-heart of his, in their own Country; who, for Love of him, had come over the Sea to Marry him. Things being thus ordered; at last comes the Governor, with some of his Nobles, to take their Farewel of the Famous young Grecian Lord; who having received them, with all imaginable demonstrations of Gallantry; at last, expressed himself to the King after this manner.

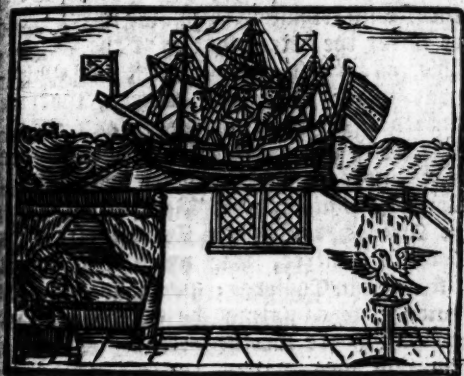
Mighty Prince, since my coming to Morocco, I have daily had such Experience of your Royal Goodness and Favour; that I esteem my poor Life too mean an acknowledgment for such high Obligations. But since a Royal Patrimony in Greece calls for me; and here is lately Arrived a Lady of singular Quality and Perfection, who, being bred up with me, hath sought me in  
 Disberg

others Courts, and is resolved, for the  
 Love of my Person, to run all Hazards  
 in my company. Therefore I am resolu-  
 ted, before I go to the Gallie, to Celebrate  
 the Hymeneal Rights; and if it please Your  
 Majesty to give her to me in Marriage  
 with your Royal Hand, I shall receive  
 as the greatest Addition to your Princely  
 Favours. The good King was easily per-  
 suaded with, to comply with any thing she  
 might testify his great Respects to the young  
 Grecian; especially in a matter of this Im-  
 portance: So that the young Lord immedi-  
 ately leading his Lady into the Room  
 where the Princes of Morocco were; they  
 were, on the sudden, much surprized at the  
 appearance of so excellent Beauty, so splen-  
 didly Adorned; the King, the more he look-  
 ed on her, fancying he saw his own Queen;  
 but that the Secreciness of his Tower, and  
 the discourse his Wife had made to him  
 of a Lady at this Grecians Lodging, that bore  
 so great Resemblance with her; besides the  
 Likeness of the Kings. These things run-  
 ning in his thoughts, fired, in his imagi-  
 nation, the strongest conceit of resemblance  
 and parity you can imagine. But the Bride  
 being come, the King gave the Bride  
 Marriage; and after the Solemnity, they  
 were Treated at a most Magnificent Din-  
 ner;

er; but nothing feasted them more, than  
 the delicate and charming Behaviour of the  
 Prince, which was so full of Attraction, that  
 all present, became Tributary to her Beau-  
 ty. The Musick, all the time, entertained  
 their Ears with an excellent Consort, some-  
 times of Viols, sometimes of Voices, with  
 the best Songs for that occasion; until a  
 Messenger, from the Gally, acquainted the  
 Bridegroom it was time to put to Sea;  
 which immediately they did, and going into  
 the King's Coach, he in Person accompani-  
 ing them to the Vessel, where Embracing  
 the young Grecian and his Lady; and ma-  
 king them many rich Presents, according to  
 the Quality, the Nobles also paying them  
 great Acknowledgement, they Embarked in  
 the Gally, and were quickly out of sight;  
 but all the while they were in view, the  
 King, and his Princes were drinking to  
 their Bon-Voyage on the Strand, often  
 discoursing of the extraordinary Qualifica-  
 tions of the Bridegroom, and the surpassing  
 Beauty of the Bride. The Ship out of  
 sight, the King hastens to his Tower, to ac-  
 quaint his Queen of the Wonders he had  
 seen that day; and that the Grecian Lady  
 very much resembled her, as she had told  
 him; but being come into the Chamber, the  
 wretched King could see nothing but forsa-  
 ken

ken Walls, and an open Casement, by which, he might easily conjecture which way the Bird was flown: So that looking out at the forlorn Window, a sudden Dizziness seized him, that his Senses failing, he fell over to the Ground, and miserably dyed. Think now mighty Dioclesian, says the Learned Philantropus, What Credit is to be given to a Vicious Lascivious Woman: And let the excellent Discourses you have had of this kind, prevail with your Imperial Clemency, to forbear the dreadful Sentence against the Incomparable Erastus, until the Matter be fully debated before the Senate, lest, too late, you repent your over Credulity and Rashness. The Emperour, thanking the Philosopher for his reasonable Advice; promised to follow it, and dismissed him with a considerable Reward.

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## CHAP. XVIII.

**N**OW was the Implacable Aphrodisia in the greatest extremity of Rage, and Confusion; having still been defeated of her Hellish Purposes, and Designs on the Person of the Incomparable Erastus: For the High Sheriff of the City, during Dioclesian's Retirement, had took occasion to build a Country House, he had some Forty Miles from Rome; so that the King's Warrant came not to his hand, until the day after; when the Emperour, by the Interpo-

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sition

ation of Philantropus, had recalled his Sen-  
 tence, with resolution to put the whole Mat-  
 ter under the determination of the Senate.  
 This, as we said, was so great a disapoint-  
 ment to the Diabollicall Queen, that she  
 ordered a Train of Coaches, and Wag-  
 gons, with a great Retinue, which were  
 in readines to have removed her into the  
 Territories of her own Relations; when  
 the Astonished Emperoz, Arriving from his  
 Country Pallace, was much surprized at  
 so strange an Equipage; and Admiring what  
 it meant, was inform'd by a Courtier, that  
 had marked the whole proceeding, That the  
 Empress was moving her self out of the  
 Dominions of Dioclesian; pretending she  
 could not have Justice, in the satisfaction  
 her Honour claimed on Erastus, for (as we  
 call'd it) his Inhumane and Traiterous At-  
 tempt upon her Person: Thus many times  
 are the most Hellish Designs, and such as  
 would have the most savage Sythians blush.  
 Garnished with the Shinning Lacre of Ju-  
 stice, and Honour. This was now the last  
 Card she had to Play; and therefore, with  
 all imaginable Cunning, she acted the Coun-  
 ter-part of an Innocent Person, that lay  
 under the greatest Injuries, Violences, In-  
 dignities, and Abuses that Injustice it self,  
 or the greatest Misfortunes could possibly  
 Erpose

Expose her to: Oft would she beat her Breast with her hand, and discharge such Volleys of Sobs and Sighs, as if her Heart, a Prisoner there, would force its way out of its Iron Lodging: So that the Deluded Dioclesian finding her on the Ground in this miserable plight, being naturally Compassionate, especially to Objects of this kind, which are certainly the most moving, and Heart-wounding Language in the World: The abused Emperor, lifted her up in his Armes, and mingling his Tears with hers, promised the next Morning to put an end to the Cause of her Sorrow and Affliction; and therefore gave Order to the Servants to bring in the Trunks that had been laid in the Carriages; and spending the Afternoon in drying the Queens Eyes, he gave her opportunity to insinuate her Treasons, to that degree, that he believed her the most Innocent, and Abused of Women, and himself Designed upon by the Philosophers, who (now he doubted not) had contrived to Depose him, and set up their Tool Erastus in his stead: 'Tis strange that the Poison of one base Romans Rage, and Revenge should spread so far; but no doubt the Devil that set her on work, had furnished her with Counsellors, and Abettors of her Designs: Since Prin-

res Courts have never wanted such, as for Covetousness, or Ambition, would not stick at the most Execrable Villainies. But leaving them to their last Act; bugging themselves, in hope that their cursed Plot had took Effect; we shall now begin to prae our Tragedy to a Conclusion, and shew you, by the following Example, the admirable, and suspitious Care, that Heaven takes of the Innocent; and how certainly, in due time, it detects, and brings to Justice, the most Potent, and Politick Contrivers of Mischief.



CHAP.



## CHAP. XIX.

**N**OW was the Morning come of that which was designed to have been one of the blackest, and foulest that ever the bright Eye of Heaven had lookt upon: The Guards were ready, the honest Citizens and Senators in Tears, and great Confusion, apprehending the fatal Consequences of that Bloody day: The Emperour, in the greatest Transport of blinded Rage, resolved (as he thought) to put an end to the Fears that attend Crowned-Heads, especially when they are imposed upon, by the Malignant Influences of Beauty, and Woman-craft: The Empress, and her Ladies next in their greatest Bravery, her Priests kindling the Fire on the Altar, to sing Te Deum at the cursed Stroke: The Innocent Prince Adorned with all the Beauties of shining Virtue; and Moral Gallantry, despising the worst Potent Enemy, and Malice could Attempt upon him, and with most Heroick Magnanimity braving Death it self. All things were thus ready for the most Inhumane Act: When the Philosopher Lencus have urged through the Guards, who gave him easy passage, be-

ing desirous the Prince might not Fall by  
 suggestions of Treachery, or Gallie: Len-  
 cus threw himself at the Emperors Feet,  
 and delivered him a Paper, whereon was  
 Written to this Effect;

**T**He Gods to Morrow by Six o'th' Clock,  
 Will Prince Crastus Lips unlock;  
 Then Moelesian shall know,  
 Who is his Friend, and who his Foe:  
 Therefore the Heavens bid thee stay,  
 The Sentence of thy Rage this day;  
 Or thy neglect, thy Crown shall pay.

The Emperoz startled at this Mysterious way  
 of Writing, and strangely Ravished with the  
 News of his Son's returning to Speech;  
 immediately sent express Order to the Cap-  
 tain of the Guard to stop the Sentence un-  
 till farther Order; and calling for the Phi-  
 losopher, said thus unto him. Lencus, the  
 Execution of Justice hath been often preven-  
 ted by you, and your fellows, and it may  
 be out of some design; but be assured, if E-  
 rastus do not speak by to Morrow Six of  
 the Clock, you shall All run the same Fate  
 with him; to which, the Philosopher repli-  
 ed, I receive Your Majesties Determina-  
 tion with all Submission. And although  
 these Learned Men that have Attended Your  
 Impe-

Imperial Majesty besore me, on the same Occasion, have recited many excellent Stories, setting forth the Baseness, and Treachery of a Deceitful Woman, and Confirmed them with divers Tragical Examples, of the Falseness, and Cruelty of that Implacable Sex: I do, with all Humility, return Your Majesty thanks for your favourable retracting your Royal Sentence this day, and humbly Crave leave by one Example more, to Convince to Your Highness what my Brethren have Insisted upon, until to Morrow shall Convince you, beyond the Power of Suspicion. Whereupon the Emperor commanding him, he thus proceeded: Right Sir, the Story of the Ephesian Lady is so noted, being recited in divers Authors, that I shall be much the briefer in my Relation of it. She had buried her Husband somewhat near the City, according to the custom of that Country, and had built a little Room in the Sepulchre, where she intended (with the greatest Mortification that was ever heard of) to finish the rest of her Life in the company of that beloved Corps: She had not been long a Recluse in this Extravagant manner, when a Malefactor that had been Executed, was hung not far from this Tomb; the custom of Ephesus being to have the Body of the Malefactor watched

by a Soldier for some certain days, that it might be exposed to the greater Terror of others; and if it happened to be stolen from the Gibbet, then the Sentinel was to be hung in the room of the Criminal. The Weather being cold, and the Sentinel perceiving a Light not far from him, it being Night, drew towards it; and coming to the Door of the Sepulchre, craved entrance: the half Mortified Widow demanding who he was, was Answered; I am a Soldier, set by Order of the Council, to Guard the Body of a Malefactor Executed here this Morning, for Subordination; but the Night being so extream cold, I know not why it may not be esteemed as great Charity in your Ladyship, as well to admit the Living into your company, as to afford your company to the Dead. The Woman opened the Door, and received the Soldier, who might soon perceive the Tide of her Sorrows; give way to some other Contemplations; she was content to exchange Glances with him, and permitted him to Entertain her with his discourse; which you may imagine to be such, as brisk young Sons of Mars entertain handsome Women withal. In short, she began to be weary of her Dead Companion, and to apprehend, that the Society of a Living one might

might be more agreeable; he was prebail-  
 led with to take a dragma of his Bottle, the  
 Air of that place being somewhat raw, and  
 damp; so that a brisk Cough began to  
 shew in her Face: in this pleasant Com-  
 pany the Red-coat passed so much time,  
 that returning to his Charge, he found the  
 Body gone indeed; so that being half di-  
 stracted, he returned to the disconsolate Wi-  
 dow, desiring once again to be admitted in-  
 to that lonely Mant, which was soon gran-  
 ted; and acquainting her of his ill circum-  
 stances, by reason the Corps of the Crimi-  
 nal had been removed; there might be per-  
 ceived, in his Countenance, an Aspect, much  
 more dismal than what the Widow had  
 put on, when she shut up her self with her  
 Dead Husband. The Woman seeing him  
 in this sad dumps, began to entertain some  
 Fears, lest she should lose her new Gal-  
 lant, in the Porch of her Expectations;  
 and having, according to the Faculty of  
 that Sex, a quick Invention in the Pick  
 of Regent, he began thus to Salve his  
 Sorrows, Soldier (said she) be not dis-  
 maied; she that is willing to Exchange a  
 Dead Husband for a Living, need never  
 a better occasion to accomplish her desires:  
 Behold, the Carcass of my Dead Husband  
 is at your Devotion, as well as the Body  
 of

of his Living Widow, who is now resolved to lose no more of her Juice in fruitlessly bewailing an unprofitable Cadaver, but to reserve it for the allaying your Amorous Heats (my Dear Soulofer) said she; and Embracing him, began to Fan away the Sorrows from his Cheeks, take this loathsome Trunk then, and hang it in the room of the Fellow; and glad am I, the old Villain serves to so good use. Dear Madam, replied the Sentinel, the Executioner will soon discover the Cheat; for the Body of the Thief wanted a Leg, and an Arm; besides, his Eares were cropt, and his Gentals cut off; And is it then so difficult (said she) to reduce this Corps to the same form? And taking his Cimeter, she chopt off a Leg, and Arm; and with his Knife, cropt and lopt the Premises; giving thereby a most signal Testimony of Female Constancy, and Affection: Now, said she, dear Centinel, we have nought to do, but to hang up this Cripple, and Entertain our selves with Enjoyments suitable to the Living. I will rather hang up my self, said he, than be Joyned to a Woman so Infamous; He that can offer such Violence to the Body of a Dead Husband will be ready to do so to the Living, for a fresh Gallant: And so hasted out of the Sepulchre;

muchre; leaving her to bewail the effect of  
 her Cruelty, and disappointment of her Lust.  
 Can any thing be moze frequent in Histo-  
 ry, or Observation, than the Frands,  
 Bulls, and Shams of insatiate Women?  
 But I shall now give Your Highness no  
 further trouble, but leave the proof of what  
 have said, unto to morrow; repeating  
 again my most Humble Thanks to Your  
 Majesty for this days Reversion of the  
 princes Sentence; for the which, you will  
 be cause to make the Altars of the Gods  
 Smoak.



## CHAP. XX.

**N**OW had the Glorious Morn to the  
 Propitious day, put on her Royal  
 Mantles, spotted with Gold; and dress'd the  
 Sky in a gilded Tapestry, expressing the  
 happy Success of that day: She no sooner  
 peep'd out at the Eastern Windows, but  
 she was Saluted with all the Harmony of  
 the Aery Quire; which made the Groves  
 and Vallies Echo to their Sweet Musick.  
 whilst the purling Streams Danc'd the  
 Hays, in winding Meanders to the sweet  
 Sun's Consort. Such a beauteous Sere-  
 nity might be observed, as if Universal  
 Nature had put on her best Apparel, and  
 utmost Gayety: When the Incompara-  
 ble Erastus, Dress'd in his Native Inno-  
 cence, and Acquir'd Excellencies (with  
 unmatch'd Lustre, Out-shined the Splen-  
 dor of the others Glories; and seem'd a  
 Diet, for whole Entertainment, the other  
 Pomps had been prepared) came Attended  
 with his Guard, and his Faithful Entozs,  
 to the Gate of the Royal Palace, deman-  
 ding Admittance to his Princely Father.  
 What shall I say! Down fell the Iron  
 Gates; the Guards were Petrified, Estro-  
 nified



ed at the Majesty of the Presence, and  
 the Charming Oratory of every Accent: e-  
 very Eye was Ravished, every Heart  
 transported at the All-conquering Pre-  
 sence of such Admir'd Perfection; All struck  
 dumb with Joy, at the Opening of his Lips,  
 and with Excess of Affection to his Princely  
 person: A Conquering Sweetness shewed  
 in every Gesture; and a Commanding Maje-  
 sty dwelt upon his Lips. Being in the  
 great Hall of the Pallace, the Seven Pa-  
 pers perswaded him, not suddenly to shew  
 himself to the Emperoz, lest a Violent  
 Excess of Joy should prejudice him: There-  
 fore the Philosopher, that last waited upon  
 Dioclesian, went to his Dressing-Chamber,  
 where the Emperoz was making ready to  
 Enquire of Matters; and acquainted him,  
 That the Innocent Erastus was now come  
 to Compurgate himself of the Horrid Crimes,  
 and Treasons, that Hellish Malice had laid  
 to his Charge: But desired, that, before  
 the Enterblew, His Imperial Majesty  
 should prepare himself for the Reception of  
 so Violent a Joy, by admitting some Mu-  
 sic to usher that surprizing Welcome.  
 The Kings Violins were called in, and one  
 of them sung a most incomparable Song,  
 much like that of Young Jemmy; some  
 think the Latter to be but a Translation  
 of

of it. Then appeared the most Abused Son and Misabused the most deluded Father when casting himself at the Feet of Dioclesian, and kissing his Royal Knees: **Gods Great Sir** (said he) will not allow permit the Innocent to be Unfortunate—and would have uttered much more, but the Over-joy'd Emperoz stop't his Mouth with a Torrent of Tears, that fell from his Royal Eyes on the Princes Cheeks. Whilst Father and Son were in this Ecstasy, all the Emperors Apartment was fill'd with Joyful Throngs of Honest Senators, and Citizens; which made the Palace Ring again with their loud Acclamations. This Musick Awaked Aphrodicea who Enquiring the meaning of that Noise, was answered by one of her Bed-Chamber, That it was Prince Erastus, who was now come to Compurgate himself to his Father; and was by the Emperoz receiv'd with the highest Carresses imaginable: She therefore, to save the Hangman a labour, sent for her Confessor; who having given her Absolution, & Allow'd her for a long Voyage; she dexterously cut her own Throat, before the Kings Guards were come in to Seize her, in order for her Tryal. This being understood by the now convinced Dioclesian, he was privately Buried in Flora's Chapel;

mel; all her Courtiers, Secretaries, and great Officers, escaping, as well as they could, the Storm Impending. One of her Ladies, that used to Lye with the Queen, the Prince would needs have uncloathed in the Royal Presence, who appearing to be a Man, gave a sufficient Testimony of his Distresses Morals. Dioclesian asked his Sons Forgiveness, for having Distrusted, and Abused such unparalell'd Innocence; he Crowned him King of the Romans in full Senate, Preferred the Seven Excellent Philosophers, highly approving their Learning, Courage, and Fidelity: Ordered general Oblations to be made, and Sacrifice said to the Supream Justice, that had miraculously Saved him a Son, and the Emperore a Prince; and one of such Excellencies, as the World could not shew his Paralell. Many days were spent in the City, and Country, in publick Triumphs, and Magnificencies; and to this day there is, or ought to be, an Anniversary observed in Memory of the Incomparable Crassus.

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# Supplement

To the LIFE of

## Prince Erastus.

By the same Hand.

**H**itherto we have Related the great Misfortunes (if we may so call the Tragicall of Heroick Misery) that attended the excellent Erastus; and it is admirable to Consider, with what Impudence, the most bloody Mallice, and damnd Hypocrisis, have Magnify themselves in the Courts of the greatest Monarchs; what mighty Patrons the greatest Injustice, and vilest Conspiracies shall meet withal? One would

would have thought it impossible for all the Friends of Hell, to have laid such a Train of mischief against the Innocent, as this Hellish Woman had contrived against this unparalleled Prince. To have Chastity branded with Incontinence; nay a Rape, the most Loyal Son, and Subject; reputed a Rebel, and Unnatural. The Valiant proclaimed a Coward; and that Prince, whose incomparable Gallantry had signalized him to the whole World, to be Ridiculed, Traduced, and impudently Accused! Is this the Fate of the Generous, and Heroick; the Virtuous, and the Brave? Is it so dangerous for Princes to keep themselves unspotted from the Stain of Debauchery, and the molish Wiles of the Court? But it's now high time to turn the Scale, and acquaint you with the Glorious Sun-shine that succeeded this Storm, and the happy Serenity that ensued upon this Tempestuous Morning. The Joy of the Transported Romans had now overflowed the Banks of their own Tyber, and sent the happy Belov'd of Erastus's Deliberance into the remoter Parts of the Empire. So that all the depending Princes sent their great Ambassadors to Congratulate, and Compliment on to Cynodorus in Occasion. For were the Triumphs, and publick

their demonstrations of Joy, confined with-  
 in the Walls of Rome; but had diffused and  
 spread themselves over the Face of all the  
 Provinces: So that, by the many Bonfires  
 (which in the Night Inlightens the Air, as  
 if they designed, by Art, to lengthen out  
 the happy day, beyond its natural Allow-  
 ance) you would have thought they had Sa-  
 crificed whole Cities for the good Fortune  
 of their Prince. Nothing was omitted  
 that might testify the Universal Satisfaction,  
 they received in his so wonderful Preser-  
 vation. In the midst of these Transports,  
 and general Acclamations, The good Dio-  
 clesian (Succited with an Extasy of Joy)  
 makes a journey to Jupiter, and resigns  
 the Roman Empire to his Country's Royal  
 Patron, Erastus.

After the Rites of the Old Emperor's  
 Funeral were performed (which were done  
 with a Pomp suitable to the Grandeur of  
 his High Dignity) there appeared another  
 Scene of Triumph; for now came the Co-  
 ronation of the Darling of his Country,  
 the Incomparable Erastus.

The Senate (who had ever born a just  
 Respect to the Character, and Vertues of  
 the Heroick Erastus) now thought they had  
 a sufficient Opportunity, both to signalize  
 their Loyalty to their Prince, and Inve-  
 st them-

themselves in the Affections of the Romans; by setting the Imperial Diadem on the Head of the most deserving of Princes. One, whose Valour, Patience, Allegiance, and Firmness to the Interest of the Empire, had sufficiently Intituled him to the Monarchy of their Hearts.

All things were now set in order to carry on the Magnificence of that Glorious day; Triumphal Arches were Created, where, in excellent Figures, were represented, the several Studies, and Exercises the Prince had been Trained up in his Minority: Some were Logical, some Mathematical, some Geographical; some shew'd his admirable Horse-manship, and his excellent Dexterity in the use of the Sword and Spear; wherein Fame proclaimed him to Excel any Prince Alive in his time. But above all, near the Pallace of the Emperors, they had ordered a Colossus to be set up, whereon, in large Figures, were Carved, the manner of the Queens Scratching her self, when she pretended, the Prince would have Ravish'd her; his severe Imprisonment, the cruel Manner that he oft was brought in to the place of Execution; with all the other particulars of the fore-going History, admirably Exemplified; which would swell this Paper too large to be here recited:



acted: On the top of this, was the Tragical manner of the Emperess's violent death, with the Execution of her Heathen Priests, that had consented with, and advised her to, the bloody Design against the Life of the Prince: All the Balconies, in the Capitol Streets, were hung with richest Tapestry, and Persian Silks; they were lined with Beautiful Ladies, and Persons of great Honour; who still, as the Prince passed by, testified their high approbation of that days Transaction. The Senators Guards (all in New Equipage) were placed round the Capitol; (which in Rome was the Pallace where the Senate met) and within (on a low Assent of Ebony inlaid with Gold) was set a Chair of State. Around it were Galleries curiously Casbled, and filled with more winning Beauties; in the midst, were Couches of Embroidered Velvet, whereon the Senators sat, richly clad in Scarlet Robes; and having Seated Erastus in his Chair; the Consul, or principal Man of the Senate, spake to him after this Manner.

My Lord Erastus,

**T**He People of Rome (whose Representatives we are) have this day unanimously Determined to set their Imperial

Crown on Your Royal Head; This they do out of the great Confidence they have in Your Princely Virtues, and High Accomplishments for so great a Trust. We have seen with what Constancy, and Serenity, you have Supported under the greatest Abuses; and with what Evenness of Temper you have Graced all Conditions: So that your Noble Qualifications, have already made you Emperor of their Hearts. We therefore require you to Promise to keep inviolate the Liberties, and Properties of the Roman People; and to use that Sword which they put in your Hand, for their Just Preservation and Defence.

Then the Prince Arising, and lifting up his Hand, Swore by the Gods which they Worshipped, To maintain the same Law among them, as had been Confirmed by the Senate; and to do nothing against, but for the Good and Weal of his People.

Upon this, the Consul (in the name of the People of Rome) set the Imperial Crown upon his Head; then with an Universal Shout, they proclaimed him Emperor; which was presently answered by the Guards without, with large Hollies, and Acclamations, and all the Ordinance round the City discharged their Thunder. When  
(after

(after a splendid Guard of Partizans) the Senators, in order, march to the Pallace-Royal, the Consul bearing the Sword before the Emperor; who was followed by many Princes of that Empire: Some, of whom, carried an Umbrel of Extraordinary Value over his Head.

By the way, they were met by the Priest, in his formalities; who had ever a sweet Mouth to be dealing in Festivals; he was going to the Temple, to speak his Gods, on this great Occasion; and (that he might obtain a Grace at Court) to Offer some Incense to the Genius of his new Prince, and Lord Erasmus. At the Entry of the Pallace, they were Entertained with a Levit of Five Hundred Trumpets, and in the first Court, with all other sorts of Wind Musick, in the second Court, with Viols and stringed Instruments, in the great Hall, with the Organ, skilfully play'd on; to which, accorded an excellent Voice, singing this Song.

SONG.

Come from the Dungeon to the Throne,  
So much the Gods thy Virtues own:  
Then Reign, till such as did design  
Thy Ruine; pay for't at the time:  
For there their Treasons must resign.

3 4

But

But they are gone! Their Murtherous hands,  
Prevent the Magistrates Commands;  
They Strangled lye in their own Bands;  
Whilst Conquering Rome's proud Diadem,  
Thy Sacred Temples round doth Hem.

He that can Teach himself t'Obey,  
Is fit'th' Imperial Sword to Sway;  
Crassus gave his Passions Law;  
And this the Equal Gods then saw,  
And Sav'd him, Mighty Realms to Aw.

This ended, they withdrew into the most  
private Rooms, and were there Enter-  
tain'd with as much Gallantry, as the  
Pomp of the Roman Empire could pro-  
tend to. The rest of the Night was pas-  
sed in Magnificent Masques and Fire-  
works, which wonderfully expressed many  
Historical, and curious Figures. Some  
few days more were spent in Courtly Gal-  
lantries, and Royal Entertainments; whilst  
the City Conduits flowed with Wine, and  
all Imaginable Expressions of a Univer-  
sal Joy, range in every corner of the  
Streets. It was wonderful to see what  
a mighty Change there was in the Face  
of things, in the City of Rome: For the  
Senators, and principal Citizens, who, but  
few days since, were in great heaviness;  
and

entering into Mourning for the barbarous Cruelty to be Executed on their most accomplished Prince; were now filled with Joy, and Satisfaction at the happiness they enjoyed, in having him preferred; under whose Government they could not doubt all the blessings that attend the Administration of a Prudent Monarch. Even now, they could have heard nothing but Lamentations, and sad Complaints of Dioclesians natural Cruelty to his Excellent Son; the whole City seeming to languish in a universal sadness: But now, Smiles and Triumphs sat on every face, and the Air resounded with Shoutings, Acclamations, Hymns and Music.

Strange, but very pleasant was the change, the Prince (with good reason) beheld himself the greatest Potentate on the face of the Earth, because he ruled in the very Souls of his Subjects: ('For even in the Roman Empire we find, That a Tyrannick, all Controuling, sway a rough and Ruffish Management, made the Government Obnoxious and Unsupportable, when on the other hand Moderation and Clemency, a Compliance with the Senate, and a Tenderness of the Publick Good; hath so far recommended the Prince, that it hath Extended his Empire, and made it more  
: Abso-

‘Absolute and Terrible to his Enemies  
 ‘than all the Severe and Arbitrary Me-  
 ‘thods in the World could e’re pretend to  
 So that nothing in the World hath so much  
 promoted the Grandure of the Monarch,  
 this Popular and Gentle way.

Yet some there were who Secretly  
 murmured at this Tranquillity. whose  
 sealed Eyes could not bear the Splendour  
 of this glorious and equal Government,  
 these (being Enemies to Mankind, and  
 of the Nature of the Devil) repined at  
 whatsoever promoted the peace and welfare  
 of the Publick; indeed nothing in the  
 World so grieved their Spirits, and set their  
 blood in a kind of Ferment, as the Com-  
 mon good. They were perfect haters of  
 Morality, and could not endure the encour-  
 agement of any thing that but lookt like  
 Virtue; Massacres and Stakes, Ropes  
 and Axes, Fays, and Gibbets were the  
 brave prospects that delighted them: like  
 Nero they could sing Carols at the Burn-  
 ing City. Nothing in nature was so ter-  
 rible to them, as a Calm and serene  
 Season. They delight in Stormes and  
 Hurricanes; so, like Sharks and Whales  
 they thrive by Tempests, and Live upon  
 the Publick Wrack. But these Envi-  
 ous moxmes, were now crept into their  
 holes,

and there secretly Creek't out their  
 Poison, for they were not able to stand  
 before the Justice of the Roman Senate.  
 These were some of the principal favou-  
 rers of the late wicked Empress, and the  
 chief fit Tools of her Perversities to work with-  
 out. Nothing so fit to promote Villains and  
 wicked Designs, as Persons of Immortal  
 Debaucht Principles: Therefore that  
 wicked Perversities, might not want fit  
 instruments to carry on their bloody De-  
 signs, they first poisoned their Protestants  
 with all manner of Corrupt, and Poison  
 Theorems, which their vitiated Natures  
 were too apt to Imbibe: that so (having  
 sufficiently Renounced whatsoever lookt  
 like Moral) they might be the better qua-  
 lified for the Villanies they were to per-  
 form. These were they (who having by  
 these ways crept into the Court) were still  
 bustling, and buzzing into the Emperours  
 ears, against the most Innocent and Dut-  
 ty Prince Erasmus: For from the time  
 the Queen had made her first complaint,  
 they ceased not to aggravate whatsoever he  
 suggested against him; alwayes Insinuating  
 their whispers in detraction of his Virtue,  
 and blemishing over all his Excellent Accom-  
 plishments, with false Callumnies, and  
 slanderous Imputations; never permitting  
 the

the abused Dioclesian to view his Son, but through their false perspectives, that rendered him all over Monster. By these Hellish Artifices, the deluded Emperour had been trapp'd to Ruine both himself and the Empire, had not the Justice of the Gods raised up the Seven Wise Masters, who before mentioned, to prevent the fatal Blow.

## CHAP. II.

The War of the Emperour *Erastus* with King *Swel*, the manner of his Overthrow.

**N**OW tho these Infernal Agents found all their base Attempts Unsuccessful against the Incomparable *Erastus*; yet could they not so soon forsake their dear *Witch*, nor be drawn from the sweet Treasons they had been engag'd in: but persist still in new Consults to destroy the Young Emperour, and in him the happiness of the Empire.

But *Erastus* (whose noble Soul tasted no relish in all the Splendid Feasts, Masks, and Effeminate Entertainments of the Court) Imagining that he that wore an

Impe-



Imperial Crown, was by the Gods design-  
 ed to somewhat else besides soft Luxury;  
 and that business of greater Importance  
 was appointed for him that sat at the  
 helm of Empire; thereby manifesting the  
 Conduct of a Wise and Gallant Prince.  
 appointed the Senate to meet at the Ca-  
 pitol in three Days, and all things being  
 in Readiness for that great Assembly, the  
 day of their Congress being come, they first  
 met in the Forum, and the Emperor, with  
 a Royal Retinue being come to them, they  
 were put on their Respective Robes, and  
 a great State proceeded to the Imperial  
 Chamber, the Roof whereof was raised on  
 Pillars of fine Porphyrie, curiously wrought  
 with Chapters of Gold: The Ceiling was  
 of Antick Work, wherein were Carved the  
 many Histories of their Famous Generals,  
 with Figures aptly representing the several  
 Provinces; A sumptuous Figure shewed it  
 self in a stately Oval in the Midst, Re-  
 presenting the Roman State, to which the  
 other Provinces, seemed to stretch their  
 hands, humbly Supplicating her protection;  
 at one end was set a Royal State for the  
 Emperor, whereon he Seated himself, and  
 the Senators being set on Chairs covered  
 with Usher; the Noble Emperor made  
 them an excellent Oration, in this man-  
 ner.

*Most*

*Most Renowned Romans,*

**B**Y Your Kindness, and for your sakes  
is, that I wear this Diadem; the Care  
therefore that results from the Trust You  
have laid on me, hath occasioned my call-  
ing You together; for I cannot be one of  
those that think it sufficient if they get the  
Reigns of Government into their hand, and  
then take no farther care what becomes of  
the Common-Wealth. *My Lords*, I know  
their are great Duties incumbent on a  
Crowned Head, and the burthen will be too  
heavy for me, unless Assisted by Your Coun-  
cels; You are the most proper Advisers I can  
possibly Consult with, for I think the Interest  
of the Prince, and his People Inseparably  
Interwoven: Let us therefore Joyntly en-  
deavour to promote the Publick good, and  
preserve the Peace of the Empire: Our  
Neighbour *Sinuel* (who lately was Our Con-  
quest; and held his Crown of the *Roman*  
is of late grown formidable in Arms, and  
a great disturber of the Tranquility of our  
Quiet Neighbours; Invading their Terri-  
tories, and Depopulating their Countreys  
with Intollerable outrage. It is not Con-  
sistent with the Grandure, or Policy of the  
*Roman* State to permit such Insolences. We  
are farther Informed, that by his Masque

Emile

Emilaries, he keeps alive, and fomenta a  
Party amongst those Miscreants, who were  
the Creatures of the Late miserable Empe-  
rour: Let us therefore Unite our Councils,  
Resume our Courage, and Scourge the un-  
bearable Presumption of this Proud Inva-  
dor; let us discord his Factors here, and  
oppose his Forces in the Neighbour Pro-  
vinces; that it may not be said Hereafter,  
The ROMAN STATE was lost,  
when ERASTUS sat at the Helm.

This Incomparable Speech of the brave  
young Emperor, was received by the Senate  
as an Oracle; their loud Acclamations testified  
the high Approbation they had of their  
Prince, and the Noble Advice he gave them.  
They verily thought all happy constellations  
their Great Ancestors, had clubd together  
to confer the Noble Genius of their sever-  
al Heroes on Crassus, with such profound  
Wisdom did he search into the Affaires of  
the State, with such brave Gallantry, re-  
solved to oppose the Power of Prince Silvel,  
and with such Affection espoused the Inter-  
est of his Country; that the Antientest of  
the Senate seemed as amazed at the Pa-  
trick Sweetness of his Incomparable Per-  
son, and charming Oratory.

Several of the Senators drained their  
Rhetorick in Congratulating the happy for-  
tune of the Empire, that had in the Throne

a Prince of such Excellencies, and sublime Endowments, as from whom they could not hope for any good, but what they might reap by his courage, nor fear any ill; but what would be prevented by his Wisdom. At length the Consul recapitulated, and enlarged upon, the several Paragraphs of Crassus's Speech; and Voted that they might presently, put the Matters therein contained upon the Debate. But it was soon determined in the Affirmative, there being not one Rotten Member in that well Constituted Body, that offered to oppose the Publick Interest of the State. They therefore resolved to take as many as they could, their secret Enemies into custody, and presently to raise an Army to march into Germany, there to oppose the Forces of the Rebelled Swel: Crassus himself offered to March in the head of the Army. Immediate Orders were dispatched to the Keeper of the Magazines, that they should provide all sorts of Arms, and Ammunition for the Expedition. Several other orders pass, for such like matters; which will not fall under the cognizance of this History: We shall therefore continue the Relation of the Engagements between Crassus the Emperour, and the Swel King of the Gauls.

Scarce had the Drums given the Alarm in the Street of the City, that the Senate had determined to enter into a War with the Gauls, and reduce them to their former Obedience to the Roman State, but the

Forum

Forner was thronged with Multitudes from all parts of the City, so that in two dayes they had Rised an Army of Forty thousand; which was thought sufficient (they still retaining the Tryed Valour of the Noble Romans) to oppose a far greater Number of the Gauls. For were they confined for want of Volunteers to so small an Army; so the People offered themselves readily to promote this War, as if they had entertained a Universal hatred to that perfidious Nation. Long had this Treacherous King Siwel, by under-hand Practices sought to undermine, and by open Violence opposed (at several times) the Roman Power; and in his Province, with great cruelty destroyed many Townes and Families which he thought had Friendship to the Roman State: So that Erastus had but too just cause to chastise him for his breach of Faith, and evil practices. Therefore in few dayes the Army Advance-  
 ed to the confines of Gaul, and by the swiftnesse of their March had entered some Leagues into the Country of Siwel, before he had time to draw his Forces together to oppose them: The Townes and Villages in their March, Joyfully putting themselves under the protection of Erastus; being no longer able to bear the Tyranny of  
 their

their Savage Master. Erastus sent for more Forces to the Senate, which he placed in Garisons to defend the Country from the Cruelty of Siwel, and his Forces, and being come in a dayes March of the Gallick Army, he entred into a large Campanie Country, fit for his designed Engagement; where he posted himself, and entrenched his Camp, the better to observe the Motion of the Enemy. The Gauls were now approached within a Mile of the Imperial Troops, and having discovered that Erastus his Force Consisted but of Forty Thousand (his own Army being above a Hundred Thousand) he resolved (according to his wonted Valour) to give them Battle the next Morning; and accordingly having given notice to his several Quarters, they appeared very early on the Plain, in half a Mile of Erastus's Camp: His Scouts, in the mean time, had given him notice of the Enemies motion; so that his Army was in as great Readynesse to Advance, as the Gauls were to receive him; Therefore drawing his Men out of the Camp, he Posted on a convenient Side of the Plain, to a little more than a Flight-shot of Siwels Army; with undaunted Bravery facing a Foe of almost Treble his Number. In the mean time the Gauls

had discovered, that Roman Baggage was left in the Trenches, and guarded but by a few Bow-men, and some light Horse with Lances: At this Siwel (being ever more inclined to plunder than to fight) Commanded his Left Wing, to fall upon, and make themselves Masters of the Imperial Carriages. The Emperour (though he soon perceived the design) gave them opportunity to Advance within Shot of the Trenches, which were maintained with extraordinary Courage, by that very small Guard; not an Arrow they discharged, but did its Execution; the Balloon-men with notable Resolution keeping the Horse from entering a small breach, their Pioneers had made; insomuch that they dismounted many of the Gauls from their Horse, who were never able to mount again. Now they were thus far engaged, Erastus commanded a single Brigade of his Right Wing, to relieve the Waggon; so that speedily falling on the Rear of the Gallick Right Wing, they did such Execution, that in little time, almost half of them were slain, or wounded, or taken Prisoners; the rest with great Confusion falling into the Body of their Army. This defeat so Enraged Siwel, seeing so great a Body of his Men routed by a handful, that he present

ly came on with the main Body of his Army, thinking to crush the small Brigade of Erastus his Troops to Pieces; but he little Considered the steady Wallour of the Romans, who never thought that worth the name a Victory, that had not been obtained at some great disadvantage; that the Romans had long before known what it was to Conquer the Gauls; and therefore were less apt to be daunted by their posse of Numbers.

The Emperour (discovering that he had no small skill in Martial Discipline, or Stratagems of War) had chosen out a Detachment Forloyn of about three Hundred tried Soldiers; these were all clothed in Mail, after the Roman manner, having Scythian Spears, and Symiters of Russian Steel, their Horses too had Armour of Proof; these he ordered to brake through the Ranks of Siwels Army, which they did with such force, that their courage lebell'd whole Files before them; doing such wonders, that should they be here related, it might be lookt on as a Romance. The Violence of their Action, soon put the Gallick Army in disorder (for they indeed, were more usd to purchase a Victory with their Money, than their Wallour; having rarely met with an Enemy that had Courage like the Romans;)



Romans;) so that Erastus coming up to them with the small Body of his Army, soon made himself Master of the Field: Whilst Siwel's Right Wing (seeing the Fate of the rest) never stood an Engagement, but fled the Field: But being closely pursued by the Left Wing of the Romans, there were but few of them escaped, to carry home the News of their Overthrow. Erastus (still) where he thought there was any one Master of more than common Courage; pickt that person out for his Rival, and by that means gave several of them the Honor to fall by his own hand: but this he did, hoping to send the Enemy of his Country, and the principal occasion of this mischief, to wash his Crimes in the Stygian Lake; But Siwel had no such design, (for doubting his Fate too close pursued him) he (with one or two of his Council) sought to slip the Field; but falling into the hands of a Party of the Romans, was by them brought Prisoner to Erastus.

He was just then retired to his Tent, giving orders for the disposal of the Prisoners; and the better refreshing his Soldiers after that Dayes Signallizing their Valours. Siwel at his approach to the Emperor, (discovering a mean and degenerate

Soul, which usually creeps, and follows when  
 unfortunate) cast himself at the feet of the  
 Brave Crassus; and with Un-Whimsely  
 Edwardize, begged for his wretched Life, and  
 that with such miserable Submission, as  
 largely testified the Parrovnness of his  
 Soul; But this beggarly Action of his, ra-  
 ther Inflamed, than abated the Just Indig-  
 nation of the Roman Emperor; so that in-  
 stead of Treating him with that respect that  
 a manly Bravery alwayes claims of a Ge-  
 nerous Enemy, he orderd him to be bound  
 in Chains; and in that posture he followed  
 the Emperors Chariot in his Marches  
 through the Country. So much had the  
 Tyranny and Cruelty of this unworthy Prince  
 Crasperated the minds of his own Subjects  
 against him; that still as he passed, they  
 denyed him the common Testimonies  
 of Pitty due to the Miserable; but re-  
 proached him with his Breach of Faith and  
 Inhumane Oppressions, whereby he had En-  
 slaved, and reduced his Own Province to a  
 State of Beggary and Vassallage. In the  
 mean time with loudest Acclamations they  
 Applauded the Conduct, Gallantry and good  
 fortune of Crassus; Thanking the God of  
 Victory, that by his hand had redeemed them  
 from the Intollerable Bondage they endured  
 under the cruel Tyrany of the base minded  
 Sitwel. So natural is it to Mankind to  
 hate a Tyrant, and give all possible demon-  
 strations of their Satisfaction, and enlarged  
 Joy, under the Sweet Influences of an  
 equal

equal Administration. The Generous Soul'd Crassus, (still as he pass'd through the Villages and Citties of that Country,) with a Princely greatness confirm'd to them those Priviledges, which Silius's Injustice had robbed them of, and bestow'd on them such other Testimonies of his Royal favours, as bespoke him to be a Prince heartily designing the Wealth, and happiness of the People, and not the rugged Satisfaction of a Tyrannical or Ambitious Monarch. He Impowr'd them to choose Governours of their own, to see Justice duely Administred, and the Peoples Rights kept Inviolat: Who were to be Responsible to the Imperial Chamber for their neglects therein.

Thus in a very short time were the Long-growing Evils of those Provinces rooted up; and (by the great care of that Excellent Emperour) the pleasant Plants of Publick Tranquillity and a general Peace grew up in the room of them. Here was confusion reduced into Order, Riotous Debauchery, reformed to manly Sobriety, and a Philosophical Morality; Tyranny and Oppression were Bannish'd, and Equity, and Clemency took place: The Groans and Tears of the Oppressed Galls were turned into Triumphs; and Every man had his Life, and Labor, once more call'd his Own. Having thus happily settled Affairs in those Parts, the Emperour returned in great Triumph to Rome; and was there received by the Senate and Citizens with such a welcom.

as well shew'd the sense they had of their Happiness under his August, and propitious Influence.

I might here relate the Magnificence of his splendid Reception, by giving the Reader the particulars of the Trophies, Arches, Companies, Pageants: and all the braveres which Poets usually feign, to gild their Romances; (so indeed the World never saw greater Pomp, than those with which the Gallant Romans used to welcome their Victorious Generals): But (my designe being rather to Paint an Extraordinary Prince, than a Gaudy Pageant) I shall omit the Mention of those lesser matters: only acquaint the Reader (who may be desirous to know) what became of the unlucky Siwel. He therefore was led to Rome in the manner you have heard; and after a few daies, was brought before the Senate; where the Consul largely sum'd up the Foulness of his Detestable Life, telling him, That he had fallen so far below a Prince, that he came short of the very Brutes, which (ordainarily) delight to Cherish one another; and (in their way) revenge the injuries offered to their kind: but that he (contrary to the very dictates of Brutal Nature) had not only usurped unto himself the Government of others,

thers, but had with great Cruelty, and Rapine, endeavoured to support his Arbitrary, and unjust Usurpation: So that he had not only Invaded, but even divested the People of their Natural Rights; refusing to allow them the Common Priviledges, which are the undoubted Claim of Humane Creatures; but that on the Contrary he had exacted of them Tributes larger than their Estates could reach unto, and had after a Tyranical manner Levied them by the Power of his Sword; setting Ruffenly Officers to Oppress the People at their pleasure; and had refused them their Just Redress, by an application to the Senate; That he had Treacherously withdrawn himself from his Obedience to the *Roman* Emperor, to whom *Gaul* own'd as much Obedience, as the rest of the *Roman* Conquests. Adding, that now the Gods had Chastised him for his Impieties; they left his Treasons to be punished as the Victorious *Erastus* should direct.

Siwel, like a Wretch in great dejection (all this time) swam in abundance of Tears; and made such pittifull demonstration, of a Poor, Low and Contemptible Spirit, that it might indeed have moved pity; had it not proceeded rather from the disappointment of his base designs; than a due resentment.

sentment of the foulness of his Loathsome Crimes. The Generous Erastus scorned to foul the Sword of the Publick Justice with the Blood of such a Cowardly, and Capon-hearted Wilscreant; but having sufficiently tyed him up from attempting (any farther) his base designs; he left him to the Consideration of the Virtues of his past Life: The Tranquillity of his Government, and the Disappointment his Cowardly Ambition had met withal; which reflections soon made such a Battery on his frailty, that his narrow Soul (not longer able to endure such Assaults) made its escape to his Old Confederate Pluto, Prince of the Lower Regions; where doubtless he had an Entertainment suitable to the Designs he had managed, and the Service he done on this side Acheron.

Thus he (whose Ambition graspt at Empire, whose Soul delighted in Cruelty, that had diverted himself in Torturing of Others) Expired Unplittied, Unlamented, and left a perpetual Insamp entailed to his Memory.

CHAP.

## CHAP. III.

**A**fter the Reduction of *Gaul*; whereby it was again made a part of the Empire, so universal a Serenity Shined in all parts, as if the Gods designed under the reign of this Prince to give the world a taste of that happiness men enjoy, under a prudent and well-disposed Magistrate; no Complaints troubled the quiet Pallace, nor did the Oppressour lord it amongst the humble Cottages. The Shepherd rejoyced in the fruits of his Flock, and the Labourer of his Vines: The Bashful Virgin knew not what it was to be assaulted by the Lustful violence of the rude Debauches; nor were the Gods denyed their Insence, though in pots of Clay.

Nothing was heard over the well-Govern'd Empire, but the voice of a well-tun'd Harmony, and mutual Congratulations for so happy a Restitution of the common Tranquillity. The Prince so Vertuous, no tongue durst detract him; nor was the Venom of the Quill (at that time) diffused, to poison the Publique Quiet: Men enjoyed their Estates, free from the Envy of the greedy Misers, and their Religion, without the Flagitious Remarques of Pestilent Flatterers; or the base Reflections of Scandalous Libellers.

**Libellers.** The Government was made easie to the People; and the Emperour Enjoyed all the Blessings arising from so well turned a Government. What shall I say? the Roman Empire (till then) never saw so great serenity; nor did the Grandure of any of their Emperours, compare with the unparalleled Greatness of the most Incomparable *Erastus*. His admirable Conduct, and Successful Administration, was the Theam of every prudent mans discourse, and of the Poet's Song; the Rival Pastorals resounded with the Praise of *Erastus*: and the unmolested Merchant Transported his Fame into the remotest Indies.

The Empire being thus settled, to the general satisfaction of all good men, the Emperour Resolved to visit the Remoter Collontes, and (with his presence) to enlighten and cherish the hearts of those his Subjects, that had only tasted the sweetness of his distant Influence; carrying with his Person, all those welcom Blessings, that use to accompany a Prince in favour with the Gods. Pursuant to this his resolution, he called the Senate (resolving to do nothing without the Advice of his best Council) and communicated to them



them his Intention; withal committing the care of the Government to their Management, until his return; and giving such other Orders as were necessary to be observed in his Absence. He took but few of his own Servants with him, and some particular Noble Men, that had been still Constant to him, during the Frowns of Dioclesian, which (with a small retinue) made about an Hundred Horse. He needed no Guards, for his Interest was so great in the affections of his People; that he had a Citadel in every Village, and a Fort in every Castle; in fine, all his Territories were safe as his own Palace: So great is the Influence that a good Prince hath, over the most sordid Dispositions; The most Barbarous Boor paid an Homage to his Virtue, and the most depraved Plebeian was struck with astonishment, and Conquered by his Gallantry.

His First Progress, (after having pass'd the Confines of Italy) was through the (once Famous) Kingdom of Hungary, along the pleasant Banks of the Fertile Danube; and so passing through that Gallant Country, since fallen to the House of Austria, he came to the Princely Country of Bohemia; at that time one of the most flourishing King-

King-

Kingdoms in the World, through the vast number of its Inhabitants, every Village swoll to a City, whose lofty Towers and Wallaces, shewed a stately Prospect to the Neighbouring Plaines. And though the Great Erastus met with all the Loyal Careless Imaginable, in the whole course of his Progress; and was received by his People, rather as a God, than one of Mortal Race: Yet could not all these Pompes of State, nor the Extraordinaryes of the Entertainments provided for him, with draw him from the Exercise of his Moral Contemplations; or those more Witteous Considerations, which are the Natural product of a Noble Soul. So that in the midst of all these splendid Capstyes, a Contemplative recess seemed more Eligible to the good Emperour: He therefore retired for some daies to a Country Pallace not far from the stately City of Prague, leaving most of his Retinue at that Court.

Erastus was extremely pleased with the sweet solitariness of this Castle; it had been an Ancient Mansion of the Emperours; and wanted not sufficient Bravery to testify great the quality of its Inhabitant: the Towers were lofty, and of Marble: The Apartments were spacious, and delightful, it stood on a small Assent of a Hill, which over-

overlookt a large Valley of many Miles extent, which was replentished with Pastures, and Vineyards in great abundance; through the midst of which the Silver-breasted Danes brought the Treasures, and Commodities of Foreign Parts, into the heart of that large Country, and Exposed their own Wines in Exchange: In short; nothing was wanting that might recommend the Situation of this House, for one of the noblest Retreats in the Empire: Only the lonely humour of the Lord, affected not the Noise and Tumult of a Numerous and Unnecessary Attendance, which was so much the more agreeable to the Temper of Erastus; who had given strict Orders (for his greater privacy) that it should be still reported he continued at the Court at Prague; to prevent the Crowd that otherwise would have spoiled his more retired Diversilements. The Lord of this Pallace dayly Entertained the Emperoz with such Art, and wholsom Sports, of Hunting the Stag, the Bore, sometimes the Fox, and other Savages as the Woods and Forest could afford; where the Thundring Northern Hound, and the Spril-Mouth'd Beagle, rang many a Melodious peal through the Echoing Vallies: with such kind of Recreations they usually passed the time till Dinner, but the Afternoon

noon was spent in a more silent Retirement; so towards the Evening, the fragrance of the Air, and the Charming Melody of the Airy Quire, commonly called them (through a spacious Garden) into an adjoining wilderness of Jessamines, Violets and Roses. The native Sweetness, and Pleasantness of those Walks, drew the Emperor at a greater distance from the Palace than he was aware of; and brought him at length by the Side of a Christal Riber, whose pretty murmure seemed to bear a Consort with the feathered Chóisters of the adjoining Grobe. On the Bank of the Liquid Perour, Sat down the Contemplative Prince, under the shade of a well-spread Almond Tree: On the other side the Riber was a Large tract of Meadow ground, where the Herds-men and Shepherds used to feed their Wanton Herds, & Quiet Flocks. On that side by a covert of Violets were seated Melander and Florius (two of the Pastoral Fraternity) unbosoming each to other their Rural Cares; the shade of their Violette Obscured Crassus from their View, which gave him the better opportunity to observe their Discourse; the Chear, whereof was such as is usual to Shepherds; for the Cruelty of Amarillis, the coviness of Chlois, the disdain of Phillis, the Severity of Pastors, and the Inconstancy of Serina; had set their Enamour'd Captives Hearts on akeing, their Breasts a panting; their Eyes a Mourning; had filled their discourse with cruel Complaints, whilst the Neighbouring Woods

and

and Kibera were made acquainted with their  
 Piteous Lamentations. But above all, the  
 strange humour of Brunella (the Fool of  
 Florius) may not be unpleasant to Interlard  
 this dull Discourse.

My Delander (said he, after he had dis-  
 charged a Volley of Sighs, and made three  
 or four Grimmaces) Thou knowst with how  
 great Constancy I have ever served the  
 lovely Brunella; thou art witness of my  
 cares for her, and the Care that (for her sake)  
 I had for her Flock, not a Doze Sheep but  
 a Wels'd, not a Stragglng Lamb, but I fetcht  
 home; when she sigh'd, I sigh'd; and when she  
 smiled, it lookt like the sweet Smpering of  
 a Koley Morning; when she slept, Sympa-  
 thy would shut up my Eyes as truly as if  
 the dull god of Slumber had done it himself;  
 when she Sang, I could not forbear playing  
 on my Pipe, and never were its Notes so  
 pleasant as when tuned to the Melodious key  
 of her Voice. What shall I say Delander? I  
 have bin thus her Slave above these Seaven  
 Years; I have no Hopes, but hers; no, no de-  
 sires, but with Submission to the good plea-  
 sure of Brunella: Just after our last Sheep-  
 hearing, I sent her a Copy of my thoughts  
 in Epithime, and I fancy they were not con-  
 sumptible neither; but would you think it?  
 She answered them with that Intollerable  
 disdain, as would have broke a Heart of  
 Pillions.

Diethes Florius (said Delander) bless me  
 with a little of thy Poetry; this is the first  
 time I ever heard thou hadst any gift that  
 way;

way, but what will not Love. Ah! the Charms of All-Inspiring Love, what can't they do? Let the Dull old Bards talk of the Efficacy of their Watery Helicon, one drop of that Nectar that flows from the Lips of Pinella, will do more than an Ocean of that cold and melancholy Liquor: therefore dear Florius, hide not the satisfaction of this Charming humor from thy faithful Constant Belander. Well (said Florius) I will not conceal them from thee, if thou wilt but assist in answering her contemptuous Lines: which Belander consenting to, Florius repeated him the Lines, which you are like to hear.

When first I saw thee, thou didst sweetly Play  
The Gentle Thief, and stol'st my Heart Away:  
Give't me again, or I will Swear thou art,  
A sweet-Face't Creature with a double Heart.

With, With (quoth Belander) these are as old as Pauls; but however, it argues a very good memory, that you so well retain them; besides, they are very pat to the purpose. By (quoth Florius) I think so, and much too good for the Abusive answer he returned, which I will shew you, that you may read them. Belander opening the Paper, found these Lines.

Sitting at Shiring, I receiv'd your Letter,  
Perusing it, I Sh—t the better;  
And finding it so full of Wit,  
The more I Read, the more I Sh—t.

The

The place whereon their grew no Grass,  
Your Letter came Just fit to wipe mine Ar—

This is Comical indeed! (said Melander)  
would ever an insulting Carryon thus abuse the  
Faithful Addressee of her Bigotted Shep-  
herd? But it is e'en too good for the Dotard  
Flozius; well, trouble not thy self! thou shalt  
have a draught of my thoughts concerning  
this Fool of thine; but first for an answer  
to her Sturritity, which methinks might  
run well enough in these words.

O my Pretty Fool,

How glad am I it gave thee so good a Stool;

What e're it cost me, I will have

This Epitaph set on thy Grave.

Beauty fair, this Tomb doth hide;

Shiting she Liv'd, Shiting she Died;

Who e'er he be, that passeth by

The Place wherein her Bones do lye,

Can do her no greater Honour,

Than to come and Piss, and Sh—t tipon her.

Dear Melander! I con thee thanks with  
all my heart, cryed the almost Transported  
Flozius, by Venus thou hast claw'd her off  
with a witness, now am I resolved to send  
her this Epitaph as a last farewell of Flozi-  
us's Love, and bury my Inclinations under  
the same belittlen marble; for after this Ho-  
nourable defiance, he shall never more make  
a Rokes of her Humble Servant Flozius.  
But now sweet Melander (continued he) let me  
have a Coppy of thy thoughts concerning her,

as thou didst promise: which Pelander accordingly gave him after this sort.

If we agree with those that affirm Phancy to be the Creator of Beauty, as the Poet hath it,

If I Phancy Black or Blew,  
Or any other Hue,

That Phancy doth a Beauty make.

Should we be of this Opinion? I know no reason but your *Punella* may pass for a Beauty; but if we believe, that there is a certain proportion, and regularity of parts, together with a mixture of somewhat called Complexion, that are necessary ingredients to the composing a Handsom woman; then I assure you I can by no means allow your quondam Mistress to put in for any share amongst the many Pretenders to handsom Faces; for (how much soever you adore her) her eyes look a cross, and one of them is bigger than the other by above halfe an inch like a Tumblers; her nose looks like a Cloak Button set in the midst of her face; and her mouth is drawn up to one ear on one side, and the other Cheek Stuft out with a Tennis Ball; her breath smells much like as her Tombstone must, if there be any Charm in the Epitaph I gave you: And for her Complexion, I can no better describe it, than a friend of mine did by a Mistris of his, who

desired



desired him to paint what kind of Wife he could wish; **Adam**, replied he, If you would sit to draw it by, it must be thus,

Eyes must be Brass,  
Her Lips of Pearl,  
Teeth as green as Grass,  
Hair like a Squirrel,  
Her Nose of Rubie,  
Her Brow of Steel,  
Her Cheeks should Blew be,  
And her Neck Braziel.

Which Description of his had its desired Effect, for it begat such a distance in her, that he was never after troubled with her loathsome Importunities. At this they arose and followed their flocks to the fold, it being now grown towards Sun-set. The well-pleased **Crassus** that had passed many a smile during their divertive discourse, returned to the Pallace, all the way, not a little admiring at the Innocent pleasures of the Shepherds life; but most of all taken with the Witty Jollery of **Melander**.

He could not forbear at Supper to acquaint his generous Host with much of the discourse he had heard; to whom the Noble Man replied, that he had enquired concerning **Melander**, and understood him to be a Noble Britain, who for some private (but supposed Amorous Reason) spent his time amongst the Shepherds in that disguise.

That night the Emperor gave order to have all things in readyness by the next morning

for the pursuing his Progress, which accordingly he did, being well satisfied with the Lodging, & Entertainments of that Country; which accounted his presence among them the greatest of their felicities; whilst Long Live the best of Emperours, was the general Acclamation that filled the resounding Air as he passed. He Journied through Helvetia and Flanders to the Town of Donkirch, where he Embarked for Britain, then called Albion, and Felicitiana, and through the Noble and Opulent Channel of the Thames, was brought attended by a Fleet which the Britains had ordered for the purpose, to the Ancient and Great Metropolis of London.

In those days had this Island purchased so great Esteem among the Victorious Romans, that they justly accounted it the fairest Branch of the Imperial Laurel; and either the ever famous Crassus, or some other Emperour bestowed on that City the Sovereign Name of Augusta, an Honour which proud Rome her self could never attain to; no nor any of the aspiring Chambers of the Emperours.

Crassus was infinitely satisfied with the Pomp of their Buildings, the Magnificence of their Treats, the prodigious Wealth of their Merchants, the fecundity of the Soil, affording so vast plenty to that prodigious Fossil of People, that seemed as a Work of themselves, that it was a little difficult to resolve whether these Considerations, or that of the Economy of their Laws

the equality of their Government; the gentleness of their Dispositions, and the Generosity of their well-temper'd Souls, mainly drew the Affections of the Roman Emperors to this (then) fortunate People. I have not come to insert the many various ways they endeavoured to manifest the Honor and happiness they conceived in his presence with them; Nor the many Statues, Pedals, Altars, Inscriptions, and vast Buildings the Emperors was at the expence of, to testify the high Esteem he had of them. This is largely done by other Historians. I have only place to insert two Disticks; which either Crassus, or some other made in praise of a Rural Life; and to promise an account of his Marriage with an English Princess, and his return to Rome; with many various and pleasant accidents in another Volum. But I must conclude with the Verses, which were these,

Happy is the Country Life,  
Blest with Content, good Health, and Ease,  
Free from Faction's Noise, and Strife,  
We only Plot our selves to please.

Peace of Mind's our dayes Delight,  
And Love's our welcom dream at Night.

Hail

Hail green Fields, and shady Woods,  
Hail Springs and Streams that still run pure,  
Natures Uncorrupted Goods,  
Where Virtue only is secure.

Free from Vice, VVe're free from Care ;  
Age is no Pain, nor Youth no Snare.

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**FINIS.**

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